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1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-078
Tuesday
23 April 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-078

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Japan

LDP Approves Plan To Send Minesweepers to Gulf

OW2304070591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 (KYODO)—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Tuesday approved a government plan to send Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers to the Persian Gulf to help international efforts to clear mines left by Iraq.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto attended three LDP meetings—of LDP executives, the party's policy-making policy affairs research council, and the decision-making executive council—and briefed party members on the plan.

At the party executives' meeting, Sakamoto stressed the importance of securing safe navigation in the Gulf, saying Japan depends for about 70 percent of its oil supply on the Middle East.

Sending the minesweepers is part of Japanese personnel contributions for peaceful and humanitarian purposes and will accord with the ideas of the war-renouncing Constitution, he said.

The chief government spokesman reiterated the government stance that there is no need to revise current laws to dispatch the minesweepers to the Gulf.

Sakamoto cited Article 99 of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) law as the legal basis for the overseas dispatch of SDF personnel and equipment. The provision stipulates that the MSDF removes mines and other explosives from the seas under the orders of the defense agency chief.

According to Sakamoto, the government will decide the matter officially Wednesday at an extra cabinet meeting after a meeting of the Security Council, the nation's top defense policy board chaired by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

The government will also issue a statement on the minesweeper deployment Wednesday to seek public support for the first overseas dispatch of Japanese troops for purposes other than training since World War II.

Kaifu is to meet opposition leaders to seek their understanding of the dispatch of the minesweepers, government officials said.

All the opposition parties except the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) have expressed their opposition to such a move, arguing that existing laws prohibit the government from sending the SDF abroad.

Under the government plan, four minesweepers, one minesweeper support ship, and one supply vessel will be sent to the Gulf.

Dispatch Set for 26 Apr

OW2304135791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 (KYODO)—In the first overseas mission for Japan's military since World War II, a fleet of Japanese minesweepers will set sail for the Persian Gulf on Friday [26 April] to join an international cleanup mission there, government sources said Tuesday. The flotilla comprises four minesweepers, one supply ship, and one support boat, which will leave ports in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, and Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, on Friday afternoon.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will convene the Security Council, the Supreme Defense Policy Board, and then the cabinet on Wednesday to officially approve the mission, government officials said.

Leaders of three opposition parties on Tuesday opposed the proposed dispatch of minesweepers, while panels of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] endorsed the plan.

Kaifu met separately with leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, the Japan Communist Party (JCP), and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), seeking their agreement for the mission. All opposition party leaders, with the exception of the DSP Chiarman Keigo Ouchi, opposed the plan, the officials said.

The six-ship fleet will be led by the 2,000-ton minesweeper support ship Hayase, with a crew of 180 officers and sailors from Kure, government sources said. The four minesweepers listed as likely to go include the Yurishima from Kure, the Hikoshima from Sasebo, and the Awashima and Sakushima from Yokosuka. They range from 450 to 490 tons in size and each has a crew of 45. The 8,150-ton supply ship Tokiwa from Yokosuka with its crew of 140 will fill out the mission.

The plan is for the flotilla to make port calls in the Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan on its 13,000-kilometer journey to the Gulf. The voyage is expected to take about 30 to 40 days.

During the meetings with opposition leaders, Kaifu explained the need for Japan to send the minesweepers to secure commercial maritime routes for Japanese tankers to carry crude oil.

Noting the government of former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone did not send minesweepers during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, SDP leader Takako Doi urged Kaifu to show legal backing for the decision, SDP officials said. Kaifu replied there is no problem from a legal point of view as the United Nations has declared the Persian Gulf war over, the SDP officials said.

Komeito leader Koshiro Ishida told the prime minister the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) law does not allow the sending of minesweepers to waters as far as 13,000 kilometers away from Japan, Komeito officials said. Ishida called for further discussions on the matter in the Diet, the officials said.

JCP Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa expressed strong objection to the dispatch, saying the SDF itself runs counter to the pacifist Constitution, which bans use of force in settling international disputes.

But the DSP's Ouchi agreed on sending minesweepers, telling Kaifu such a mission is possible only during peacetime.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto attended three LDP meetings—of party executives, its policy affairs research council, and the decision-making executive council—briefing party members on the plan. At the executives' meeting, Sakamoto stressed the importance of securing safe navigation in the Gulf, saying Japan depends on the Middle East for about 70 percent of its oil supply, LDP officials said.

Sending the minesweepers is part of Japan's personnel contributions for peaceful and humanitarian purposes in accord with the ideals of the Constitution, he said.

Sakamoto reiterated the government stance that there is no need to revise laws to allow the dispatch. He cited Article 99 of the Self-Defense Forces Law as the legal basis for overseas dispatch of SDF personnel and equipment. The provision allows the MSDF [Maritime Self-Defense Forces] to remove mines and other explosives under the orders of the Defense Agency chief. It does not mention a restriction to Japanese waters.

After the Security Council and cabinet endorse the deployment Wednesday [24 April], the government will issue a statement seeking public support, government officials said.

Business Leaders Support Minesweeper Dispatch

OW2304115791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The leaders of four major Japanese business organizations on Tuesday welcomed the government's decision to dispatch minesweepers for missions in the Persian Gulf.

The decision will be made formally at an extraordinary cabinet session scheduled for Wednesday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations, said in a statement issued Tuesday the federation is highly supportive of the government decision.

He expressed hope that the decision will be correctly understood by neighboring Asian nations and blessed with cooperation from the Japanese people and opposition political parties.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said no legal problems are involved in the decision and it will help demonstrate Japan's desire to discharge its international responsibility.

Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japan Employers' Federation, said it is natural for Japan, with high technological standards, to cooperate in the mine removing operation in the Gulf.

He said the decision was too long in coming.

Takashi Ishihara, head of the Federation of Corporate Executives, expressed hope that the decision will be implemented as soon as possible.

Government To Brief PRC, ROK on Minesweepers

OW2204145091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1437 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—The government decided Monday to brief China and South Korea on the impending dispatch of Self- Defense Forces (SDF) minesweepers to the Persian Gulf, government sources said.

The decision is expected to be officially announced on Wednesday, they said. The minesweepers are likely to leave for the Gulf region by the end of the week, they added.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will explain the measure to South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-o during a three-day regular bilateral foreign ministerial conference in Tokyo starting Wednesday, the sources said.

Hiroshi Hashimoto, Japan's ambassador to China, will inform Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of the reasons for the decision, the sources said.

Qian has warned that Japan should be cautious in dealing with the dispatch of the SDF overseas because it is "a sensitive matter."

South Korea has taken a similar position on the issue.

Japan will explain that the mission is a noncombat mission in line with international efforts aimed at restoring the Persian Gulf following the war, the sources said.

Japanese officials will also stress the plan is part of Japan's personnel contribution to the region and is aimed at securing trade routes vital to Japan.

It will be the first overseas deployment of Japanese troops since the end of World War II.

Spokesman Reveals Aid Plan for Kurdish Refugees

OW2304091291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan will dispatch a survey team to Kuwait on Thursday to assess the environmental ramifications of its burning oil wells, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Taizo Watanabe said the government has decided to dispatch the team of government and private-sector experts to ascertain what more Japan can do to help Kuwait cope with the effects of air pollution caused by the burning wells.

Based on results of the team's survey over a two-week period, the government will draw up definite plans to cooperate with international organizations dealing with the problem, the spokesman said.

Watanabe also said the government Sunday dispatched the second Japanese disastor relief team to Saudi Arabia to help retrieve crude oil spilled during the Persian Gulf war.

He said the first air cargo of food and other relief supplies for Kurdish refugees will leave Tokyo later Tuesday for Turkey, with two other cargoes to follow Wednesday and Saturday. In addition, relief supplies will be sent to Iran on May 2, he said.

The government would announce by Wednesday a new package of "concrete measures of assistance" to alleviate the suffering of Kurdish refugees, Watanabe said. Japan's contributions to the refugee relief operation "should be in proportion to the economic power with which Japan is blessed," he said.

Ministry sources said Japan plans to offer 100 million dollars in urgent financial assistance for Kurdish refugees, meeting a quarter of the funds requested of the international community for that purpose by the office of the U.N. Disastor Relief Coordinator (UNDRO).

Japan has so far given 10 million dollars to UNDRO in emergency relief funds for the Kurds.

Iraq's Ambassador to Tokyo Rashid al-Rifa'i was summoned to the Foreign Ministry last Saturday and told Japan wants Iraq to cooperate with international efforts to help the Kurdish refugees, Watanabe said.

He said Japan demanded also that Iraq "take appropriate measures to see to it that those refugees will be returned to the home districts without any anxiety."

Cambodia's Hun Sen Arrives for Medical Treatment

OW2004121791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 (KYODO)—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen arrived here Saturday on an unofficial visit for medical treatment.

He is likely to be in Tokyo for some time, depending on the results of a checkup, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Although Japan does not recognize the Phnom Penh government, the Foreign Ministry is ready to arrange meetings with senior ministry officials if Hun Sen's condition allows, the sources said.

The Phnom Penh government took power in 1979 with the help of Vietnamese troops, ousting the Communist Khmer Rouge government, accused of slaughtering more than one million of its own citizens.

Hun Sen was rushed to hospital in an ambulance last December during a session in Paris of a United Nations-proposed provisional governing body, the Supreme National Council, but the nature of his medical problem is not clear.

This is his second visit to Japan, following a trip in June last year for a Tokyo-sponsored international peace conference on Cambodia, which failed to produce a comprehensive agreement.

Meets Foreign Ministry Official

OW2204123091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1205 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official held unofficial talks in Tokyo Monday with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, ministry sources said.

Sources said that Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, met with Hun Sen to assess what can be done to revitalize the stalled Cambodian peace process.

It was the first direct contact between Japan and the Vietnamese- installed Phnom Penh government since the Foreign Ministry sent an emissary to the Cambodian capital in February.

Hun Sen arrived in Japan on Sunday for what Japanese officials described as "medical reasons," and he is expected to stay about a week. Officials would not say if Hun Sen was ill or merely needed a medical checkup.

As the talks between Tanino and Hun Sen were "rather inconclusive," another meeting may be arranged between the premier and Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada, pending approval from his doctors, sources said.

They said, however, it was unlikely he will meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu because of the nature of his visit.

In Monday's meeting, Tanino was believed to have sounded out Hun Sen on a set of Japanese proposals designed to tackle Phnom Penh's objections to a Cambodian peace plan drawn up last August by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The plan, which calls for extensive U.N. administration of Cambodia until elections are held, has been accepted by the three resistence factions aligned against Hun Sen's government. Phnom Penh, however, wants more explicit wording with respect to what it calls the genocidal policies practiced by the Khmer Rouge during its iron-handed rule from 1975-78.

Phnom Penh is also loath to accept the plan's call disarming all four factions prior to elections, saying that the Khmer Rouge could take advantage of the opportunity to seize power again.

Japan insists its "informal suggestions" to tackle these two trouble areas are based on the U.N. peace plan and do not deviate from it.

Most parties to the conflict, including the backers of the various factions, have expressed reservations about the Japanese proposals, which have not been made public. Phnom Penh has said it still wants to study them.

Seeking support for the proposal, Japanese officials met last March in Beijing with the leaders of the three resistence factions.

Anticommunist leader Son Sann came to Tokyo in March, and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama met with resistance coalition leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing earlier this month.

Foreign Ministry Reevaluates Gorbachev Stance

OW2304135691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Japanese Foreign Ministry now says the Soviet Union did not "clearly" reaffirm the legal validity of a 1956 document in which Moscow promised to return two of four disputed northern islands, during last week's summit in Tokyo.

The acknowledgement, in a ministry paper issued Tuesday, is at odds with earlier official remarks that the Soviet side had confirmed in Tokyo that the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration itself was among the "positive elements" referred to in a passage of a joint communique issued at the end of the summit talks last Thursday [18 April].

The communique, signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, said the two countries will "take advantage of all positive elements built up since 1956." The 1956 declaration, which provided for the transfer to Japan of Shikotan and the Habomai group, seized by the Red Army at the end of World War II, restored diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Tuesday's official interpretation of the communique reflects a more cautious line than remarks made in the immediate wake of the summit talks by both Kaifu and Foreign Ministry officials.

The new position paper says that while Japan regards it as "only natural" for the 1956 declaration to be included among the "positive elements" referred to, the Soviet side "did not clearly affirm" its legality. It infers that the Soviet reluctance to do so was most probably because of domestic political considerations.

During six rounds of summit talks with Gorbachev, Kaifu called on the Kremlin leader to reaffirm the Soviet Union's territorial obligations under the 1956 declaration. In 1960, Moscow unilaterally made return of the islands conditional on the removal of all foreign troops from Japan and a year later renounced the provision outright.

Gorbachev was reported by the media to have rejected Kaifu's call and to have drawn attention to the political pressures he faces back in the Soviet Union. But the communique's ambiguous wording enabled Tokyo to claim the Soviets had implicitly reaffirmed the legal validity of the 1956 declaration while Moscow could claim that Gorbachev made no territorial concessions to Japan.

Japan's demands for the two pledged islands, Shikotan and the Habomai group, and its claims to two others, Kunashiri and Etorofu, have long been the major obstacle to a bilateral peace treaty and full-fledged relations between Tokyo and Moscow.

Official Remarks on USSR Domestic Situation

OW2304115491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could not endorse the 1956 Japan-soviet joint declaration during his visit to Tokyo last week because of domestic problems in the Soviet Union, a high-level Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

Calling his observation "a guess," Nagao Hyodo, head of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, made the remarks at a House of Councillors Foreign Affairs Committee session.

Acknowledging the Soviet president had refused in Tokyo to reconfirm the 1956 agreement, Hyodo said, "this is fundamentally the point where we (the Japanese and Soviets) talk past each other."

The Soviet Union agreed in the 1956 declaration to return two of four disputed islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group—to Japan, but later withdrew from the deal when Tokyo renewed its security treaty with the United States.

Gorbachev's visit to Tokyo last week had touched off considerable speculation he would offer Japan a proposal based on the 1956 agreement.

However, a joint statement signed by Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu concluding three days of meetings disappointed many Japanese with its ambiguous and noncommittal tenor on the territorial issue.

Under questioning of the Social Democratic Party's Akiko Domoto on Tuesday, Hyodo said, "President Gorbachev, because of the internal situation in the Soviet Union, was stuck to a position in which he could not in any way endorse the joint declaration."

Hyodo's remarks Tuesday were a departure from March 20 when he told the Budget Committee of the House of Councillors he believed the Kremlin had returned to its 1956 position and would offer two of the islands back during Gorbachev's visit.

At that time, Domoto countered "The view of the Foreign Ministry is too soft, isn't it?"

On Tuesday, Hyodo remarked, "We had no intention to make the 1956 joint declaration the starting point of the talks. We intended to emphasize that the problem of the reversion also of Kunashiri and Etorofu and not just islands as promised in the joint declaration was most important."

Poll on Gorbachev Talks, Statement Conducted

OW2304143791 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] NHK has conducted an opinion poll by telephone regarding the recent visit to Japan by Soviet President

Gorbachev. The poll indicated that there were more people who were dissatisfied with the Japanese-Soviet joint statement's reference to Japan's claim to the northern territories than those who were satisfied with it. However, more than 70 percent of the pollees welcomed the joint statement for clearly noting the names of four islands claimed by Japan for the first time in an official document.

The poll was conducted over three days beginning 20 April, immediately after President Gorbachev's departure from Japan. NHK questioned 1,800 eligible voters choosen at random from across the country, and obtained responses from 1,077 pollees.

Asked if they think that President Gorbachev's visit to Japan will help to improve overall bilateral relations, 55 percent of the respondents said that they think it will, and 35 percent said that it will not.

NHK then asked to what degree respondents were satisfied with the handling of Japan's claim for the northern territories in the joint statement, which had been provided by Prime Minister Kaifu and President Gorbachev as a result of their six sessions of talks. In reply, 2 percent said that they were very satisfied; 33 percent said that they were less satisfied; 51 percent said that they were somewhat dissatisfied; and 9 percent said that they were very dissatisfied. Thus, the poll indicated that a larger number of people were dissatisfied with the issue.

Asked what they think about the fact that the Habomai Island group, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Etorofu were mentioned in an official document for the first time in connection with the territorial issue, 71 percent said that they were pleased and 19 percent said that they were not pleased.

Asked what they think of Soviet proposals for a lift of visa requirements for Japaneses who visit the northern islands to promote exchanges and for Japanese-Soviet joint business projects, 78 percent said that they were in favor of it, and 13 percent said that they were against it.

With respect to the connection between the territorial issue and economic aid to the Soviet Union, 33 percent said that Japan should offer economic aid while seeking a solution to the territorial issue; 32 percent said that Japan should offer economic aid separately from the issue; and 29 percent said that Japan should not offer economic aid unless the territorial issue is settled. Thus, the opinions on the question were split three ways.

Ministry Considers ID Cards for Islands Visit

OW2304085691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry is considering the use of special identity cards for Japanese wishing to visit four Soviet-held islands to the north of Japan, a ministry official said Tuesday.

Nagao Hyodo, head of the ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, told the House of Councillors Foreign Affairs Committee that consultations are under way on a proposal put by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during his four-day visit to Japan last week that Japanese citizens be able to visit the four disputed northern islands without visas.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama also said Tuesday he wants to consider a review of a cabinet call last year to Japanese not to visit the islands, after sounding out opinions in the relevant ministries.

The government policy is not to allow Japanese to visit the islands on entry visas issued by the Soviet authorities, as this would imply recognizing the islands as Soviet territory.

The islands, over which Japan claims sovereignty, are Shikotan, Etorofu, Kunashiri, and the Habomai group of islets. They lie to the northeast of Hokkaido.

Hyodo told the committee that care will be taken not to damage Japan's legal position on the islands in arranging visa-free visits to them.

He said the prospect of visa-free entry to the region raises several questions which need to be resolved, including whether entry documents used by Japanese would be stamped as showing entry to Soviet territory, and jurisdiction in cases where Japanese become involved in accidents while visiting the islands.

MITI Official Comments on U.S. Chip Talks

OW2304141791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 (KYODO)—Japan and the United States are approaching a new bilateral agreement on semiconductor trade, an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Tuesday.

Briefing reporters on bilateral talks over the issue, Hirobumi Kawano, director of MITI's Americas division, said, "The gap in stance between the two countries is narrowing."

Trade negotiators of the two countries met here to forge a new chip pact to replace the current semiconductor agreement, whose five-year term expires at the end of July.

Kawano said the two sides will meet again on Wednesday, and could hold a higher-level meeting on Thursday to clinch the pact.

Discussions at the Tuesday meeting focused on three problems—how to incorporate measures to handle dumping into the new pact, unifying the widely differing statistics on chip trade used by the two countries, and improvement of foreign access to the Japanese market, he said.

Kawano, however, refused to reveal details of the discussions.

The issue of a U.S. lifting of what remain of the punitive tariffs on Japanese electronics imports imposed in 1987 as sanctions in retaliation for Japan's alleged violation of the current pact will be discussed on Wednesday, he said.

Tokyo has been expected to propose inclusion of the "goal" of increasing the share of foreign suppliers in the Japanese chip market to 20 percent on condition that Washington agree to lift the sanctions.

Whether the new agreement should include the 20 percent target as a goal or requirement has been the largest bone of contention in the talks.

If the U.S. accepts Japan's offer on Wednesday, that would likely lead to a virtual conclusion of the negotiations in the high-level meeting on Thursday.

Cabinet Approves Kaifu's ASEAN Visit

OW2304092891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0859 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The cabinet gave formal approval Tuesday to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's scheduled April 27 through May 6 tour of Southeast Asia.

Kaifu will visit five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines. He visited the remaining ASEAN member state, Indonesia, last year.

"The government hopes that the prime minister's talks with ASEAN leaders will help enhance the cooperative relations between Japan and these nations in order to contribute to building up a new world order in the Asia-Pacific region and the world community," Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters.

Kaifu will leave Tokyo for Malaysia on April 27 and hold talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed the same day. On April 28, he will travel to the west coast city of Malacca, midway between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, for a luncheon with the state governor and a tour of historic sites.

Kaifu will depart Malaysia on April 29 for Brunei, where he will meet Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah the same day.

He will go on to Bangkok on April 30, meeting Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun the same day and King Phumiphon Adunyadet the following day.

He will then proceed to Singapore on May 2, where he will meet President Wee Kim Wee and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

On May 3, Kaifu will deliver a policy speech on Asia and meet the press before talking with former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Kaifu will arrive in the Philippines on the last leg of his tour April 4. He will meet President Corazon Aquino on the next day before returning to Tokyo on May 6.

Further on OECD Secretary General's Visit

Meets With Kaifu

OW2304045191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and the head of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) agreed in a meeting Tuesday on the importance of an early conclusion of stalled global trade talks, government sources said.

Kaifu told OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye "though Japan, the United States, and Europe are each faced with difficult problems, the negotiations should be concluded by the end of the year."

Paye, in Tokyo to prepare for a ministerial meeting of the 24- nation Paris-based organization in June, said failure to break the deadlock in the talks, known as the Uruguay Round, would lead to an upsurge of protectionism worldwide.

The 105-nation negotiations, being held under the sponsorship of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), were due to be completed last December, but have been bogged down over farm trade reform, the most contentious issue in the four-year round.

International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao, in a meeting with Paye earlier in the day, said he hopes the talks, aimed at liberalizing trade, will be concluded "by the end of the year at the latest."

Paye said setting a deadline is not enough and stressed that it is important for each participant to make a substantial contribution to an early successful conclusion of the negotiations.

He also briefed Nakao on the progress of discussions on the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) within the European Community (EC), adding that if the talks proceed smoothly it will greatly accelerate the negotiations.

Calls for Cautious Monetary Policy

OW2304115391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1021 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The secretary general of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Jean- Claude Paye, said Tuesday that member countries should be wary of easing monetary policy because of inherent inflationary pressures.

"On the side of the secretariat our feeling is that one should be cautious before any relaxation, because inflationary risk is very prone to materialize," he told reporters at the Japan Press Club.

He said the economies of the OECD's 24 member nations "are on the verge of resumption of economic growth," which could calm cries for lower interest rates.

The secretary general is in Japan to sound out ranking officials ahead of the OECD's ministerial meeting in June. He arrived Sunday for a four-day visit and has met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo.

Paye also touched on the need to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, "as soon as possible."

He said the OECD members must make "decisive and quick moves" to conclude the trade talks, "if possible by the end of this year."

However, he noted the seemingly insurmountable impasse on agricultural issues in the talks, saying "in this country and the European Community it is not yet clear whether the governments are willing to make the rapid moves and decisive moves which will be necessary to unblock some aspects of the negotiations."

Nelson Mandela Arrives for Visit

OW2204062091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 22 Apr 91

[By Jocelyn Ford]

[Text] Kyoto, April 22 KYODO—Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela accused the South African Government Monday of seeking to exploit black violence to disrupt black political groups.

Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress [ANC], also urged foreign governments and businesses to confer with the victims of apartheid prior to reestablishing ties with South Africa.

"Though factional conflict among black political groups is a factor in this violence, we are convinced that it is no longer the major factor," Mandela said at the opening of the International Press Institute's [IPI] three-day annual general assembly in the ancient Japanese capital of Kyoto.

He accused the South African Government security organs of "blatant connivance," and blamed the government for failing to check violence employed by police in order to suppress black political activities.

The allegations come two weeks before the expiration of the ANC's May 9 ultimatum demanding a halt to violence, or suspension of talks with the Government on eliminating apartheid.

"We patiently await the day (President F.W.) de Klerk will denounce the methods his police and other security organs have consistently employed to suppress legitimate political expression on the part of the black majority," he said.

Mandela made no mention of a proposal by de Klerk to hold a two- day summit of government political leaders May 24 aimed at stemming township wars that according to media reports have killed 600 people this year.

The ANC has so far responded coolly to the call, standing by its list of demands on the government that include the dismissals of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defense Minister Magnus Malan.

Mandela said the demands were intended to "signal that we cannot continue with 'business as usual' while citizens of our country are perishing by the thousands."

Mandela also expressed alarm at the government's continued practice of holding suspects in detention without trial, and noted that 2,000 political prisoners remain in jail, despite recent releases.

He urged foreign governments and businesses to consult with those fighting against apartheid before reestablishing relations with South Africa.

The United States is exemplary, he said, because it has "not treated the issue of sanctions as if the only people who matter are the South African Government, which at best represents a mere 17 percent of our population."

The U.S. Government has remained in regular contact with the ANC, he said.

Last week, the European Community decided to lift sanctions in response to Pretoria's moves to eliminate laws enforcing racial segregation.

Japan consulted with Mandela earlier last month on its plans to reassess sanctions and to invite De Klerk to visit Japan this year.

Mandela pledged to the some 400 news editors and publishers that he is committed to the citizens' right to know, as demonstrated by a clause inserted in the ANC's draft Bill of Rights, unveiled last week.

The London-based International Press Institute was formed in 1951 to promote freedom of expression internationally.

The April 22-24 annual conference is also to hear from journalists on censorship and the Persian Gulf war, and hold discussions on Asia after the Cold War.

ANC on Tokyo Invitation to De Klerk

OW2204140191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1029 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Kyoto, April 22 KYODO—The African National Congress (ANC) reserved comment Monday on the Japanese Government's intention to ask South African President F.W. De Klerk to visit Japan this year. The ANC has "taken note" of Tokyo's plan to issue the invitation, and will make its views known to the Japanese Government in due time, said Pallo Jordan, ANC information director.

Masatoshi Ohta, Japanese consul general in Pretoria, informed ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela of the plan last month in an apparent bid for approval from the black nationalist group. South African diplomatic sources in Tokyo said at the time that they had not been informed of any invitation, although Foreign Ministry officials announced it in Tokyo. Also during the news conference, Jordan denied that the ANC, unbanned by Pretoria last year, is preparing underground military bases in South Africa. ANC guerrilla units based outside of South Africa are being trained as a regular army with funds from the Soviet Union and countries in Asia and Africa, he said. Jordan said the training was being done so the forces can be combined with South Africa's military after apartheid is eliminated. The South African Government agrees it is safer for both South Africa and the host countries if the troops remain under ANC command, rather than "breakdown into a rabble of armed men," he said. Jordan is in Japan with Mandela, who delivered the keynote address earlier in the day at the opening of the International Press

Institute's April 22-24 general assembly. Mandela departs for London Tuesday, where he is to meet British Prime Minister John Major.

Supreme Court Rules Vote Disparity Illegal

OW2304042091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a lower court ruling that a more than three-to-one difference in the representation of voters in the 1989 Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly elections was illegal, but said the election results remain valid.

The Tokyo High Court made the ruling in January last year on a suit filed by a group of citizens of Tokyo's Adachi Ward led by Hideo Yamada in August 1989 against the Tokyo Election Administration Committee over an election held earlier that year.

Both parties in the suit appealed to the Supreme Court, saying they were dissatisfied with the High Court decision.

The plaintiffs claimed the 1989 election was illegal because of the large difference in representation between densely populated cities in the Tokyo suburbs and sparsely populated downtown districts, which have huge working populations during daytime but only a small number of residents.

In the election, Chiyoda Ward in downtown Tokyo, which has seen its permanent population shrink to 38,665 voters, elected one assembly member, as did Hino City, a northeastern Tokyo suburb with 117,539 voters.

As a result, a single ballot in Chiyoda was in effect worth 3.09 times one in Hino.

In the Tokyo High Court ruling, the presiding judge said the imbalance exceeded the permissible limits for the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly. Because the assembly did not correct the discrepancy in due time, the election was illegal, the ruling said.

But the judge added that the assembly was receptive to improving the situation and he, therefore, rejected the plaintiff's appeal to nullify the election results and order a new vote.

The Supreme Court also upheld this part of the ruling.

This is the third time for the Supreme Court to rule illegal the disparity in electoral representation in Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly elections, and at the same time to uphold the validity of the elections in question.

Similar rulings were handed down in suits challenging the 1980 and 1985 elections.

Doi Admits Responsibility for Election Defeat

OW2204141791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Takako Doi, chairwoman of the leading opposition Social Democratic Party [SDP], said Monday she is responsible for its defeat in the unified local elections on April 7 and Sunday.

Doi told party executives that she hopes to launch debates on party reforms as soon as possible, party officials said.

At a press conference, SDP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi suggested he intended to resign to take responsibility for the party's defeat.

The SDP won 1,116 seats among the 11,397 seats contested in the 376 municipal assembly elections held Sunday, losing 47 seats it won in the last election four years ago.

The Liberal Democratic Party won 1,282 seats, Komeito won 1,135 seats, the Japanese Communist Party took 970, the Democratic Socialist Party 351 seats, and the United Social Democratic Party 14 seats. Independents captured 6,514 or 57 percent of the seats.

The SDP won just 345 seats in 44 prefectural assembly elections on April 7, down from the 443 seats it secured in the previous election. The LDP won 1,543 prefectural assembly seats, topping the 1,382 seats it won in the 1987 elections.

The unified local elections, which are held every four years, are the major political event of the year and are expected to set the future political course of the nation's local politics.

Panel on Foreign Registration System Set Up

OW2204143891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—A new Justice Ministry panel on foreign registration met for the first time Monday to discuss new ways of identifying foreign residents after the current fingerprinting registration system is scrapped, ministry officials said.

In his opening address to the panel, Justice Minister Megumu Sato quoted Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as saying he pledged to abolish the fingerprinting registration system for South Korean residents when he visited Seoul last January.

The panel members include university professors, lawyers and news editors. The panel elected former Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Kiyohisa Mikanagi chairman of the panel.

The government has said it is prepared to submit a bill scrapping the fingerprinting system of registering foreigners to the ordinary Diet session next December.

It is very important for the Justice Ministry to hear a wide range of opinions from many Japanese circles on ways to revise the foreign registration system, since it effects relations with other countries, Sato said.

The ministry will hold about five meetings by this summer to discuss ways of arranging a type of family registration system for South Korean residents of Japan instead of a fingerprinting system.

Apart from South Korean residents of Japan, the meeting will also study other ways of identifying other foreign residents of Japan—who have lived in the country for more than a year—without using a family registration system, ministry officials said.

Report Indicates Growth in Leasing Industry

OW2304122891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan's leasing industry, which has grown steadily over the past three decades into an 8 trillion yen business, should be given wider options for fund raising to allow this expansion to continue, a government report said Tuesday.

The industry has been growing at an average annual rate of 17 percent over the past decade, and grossed 8.3 trillion yen in contracts in 1990, accounting for about 8 percent of private-sector capital spending, the report said.

It has made significant contributions to rationalization and streamlining of small companies as well as to stimulating local industries, said the report, compiled by an advisory panel to the International Trade and Industry Minister—the Lease Industry Committee of the Industrial Structure Council.

But, the report said, the leasing companies' heavy dependence on bank loans threatens the foundations of their management.

The 129 companies belonging to the Japan Leasing Association obtain an average 95.5 percent of their business capital from bank loans, compared with 75.8 percent among all industries.

To help them correct their overly leveraged financial positions, the government should take steps to widen the scope of their fund- raising activities, it said.

The report in particular urged the government to allow leasing firms to issue commercial paper and to loosen restrictions on their issuance of corporate bonds.

It also called for efforts by the industry itself to focus more on high value-added business such as consulting and marketing.

Government To Continue Curbs on Land Loans

OW2304145391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—A ranking Finance Ministry official said Tuesday that the government has no intention of lifting restrictions in the near term on the total amount of loans made for real estate purchases.

"We realize that the current business environment is not easy," but there are many firms that are surviving with prudent business policies, said Masaaki Tsuchida, director general of the ministry's banking bureau.

"Thus, at this stage of the game, we have no intention of lifting overall restrictions on land lending," he said.

The ministry does not plan to remove curbs on real estate loans until it is convinced that the possibility of a renewal of speculative land purchases has vanished completely, he said.

Tsuchida's remarks came in response to questions posed by a Komeito Diet member concerning the bankruptcy of a medium-sized leasing company in Shizuoka Prefecture during a House of Councillors' finance ministry committee meeting earlier in the day.

Shizushin Lease Co. declared virtual bankruptcy Monday by filing for court protection from its creditors on liabilities totaling 255 billion yen.

Securities Industry Appoints New Leaders

OW2304112691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0806 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April, 23 KYODO—The Japanese securities industry has appointed its new leaders who will have to tackle various tasks, including the planned financial reform to tear down some of the walls between various financial institutions, industry sources said Tuesday.

The Japan Securities Dealers Association, which represents Japanese securities houses, has named Yoshitoki Chino, chairman of Daiwa Securities Co., as its head to succeed Shoji Umemura, chairman of Nikko Securities Co.

Umemura will assume the chairmanship of the board of governors of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE).

Setsuya Tabuchi, chairman of Nomura Securities Co. and currently heading the TSE board, has been appointed chairman of the association of the TSE regular members, which groups 124 member brokerages of the exchange.

The personnel reshuffles, to be made official in June, come at a time when the government is moving to revamp Japan's heavily protected financial market by removing the barriers among financial institutions, such as banks, brokerages, and insurance companies.

Two advisory panels to the finance minister are due to present final reports on the reform package by the end of May.

The new industry heads need to tackle the problems of expansion of personal investors, the planned listing of Japan railway stocks, and promotion of over-the-counter stocks, the sources said.

New Economic Planning Agency Vice Minister Named

OW2304025591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0237 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Michio Ochi, head of the Economic Planning Agency, informally decided on Tuesday to promote Yasuo Katsumura, vice minister for economic affairs, to the post of the agency's administrative vice minister, agency officials said.

Katsumura, 59, will succeed the retiring vice minister, Shinyasu Hoshino, 58.

The appointment will be formalized in mid-May after the end of the current Diet session, the officials said.

Keidanren Announces Environmental Guidelines

OW2304095991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Tuesday announced guidelines for member corporations encouraging them to actively contribute to protection of the global environment.

The 11-point program, named the Charter for Global Environment Protection, calls for member firms to tackle environmental problems sincerely so as to harmonize with consumers and society and promote the sound growth of the Japanese economy.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the federation, said the platform is based on his belief that the environmental problem could become a life or death question for enterprises in the future.

Emphasizing the need for enterprises to be fully aware of the importance of the problem, the program calls for member companies to establish a task force to tackle problems related to environmental protection under supervision of an executive official.

It also calls on them to offer active cooperation to cope with major disasters and destruction of the environment for which they themselves are not responsible.

The program appeals to enterprises to discharge their responsibilities for the protection of the environment on a global basis.

The member companies also are urged to take measures for protection of the environment when they build production facilities at home and overseas and to faithfully abide by environmental regulations set by state or local authorities.

The federation said the program was approved at an executive meeting Tuesday.

The environmental guidelines follow another set established last June for member companies involved in the government's official development aid projects overseas.

Finance Minister Remarks on Yen Weakness

OW2304021891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0200 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reiterated his displeasure Tuesday with the yen's weakness against the U.S. dollar on the foreign exchange market.

"I am not very happy about it (the recent trend of the yen)" he said, talking to reporters after the cabinet meeting in the morning.

He said that one explanation for the current yen level could be that the Japanese currency is " being dragged lower by the weaker German mark."

The minister said that foreign exchange rates will be "as a matter of course" one of the issues to be discussed at the meeting of the finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations, scheduled for Sunday in Washington.

New Banking Leader Pledges To Build Up Trust

OW2304123091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO— The recovering of social credibility is the most urgent task for Japanese banks, after respect was undermined by bankers' recent involvements in speculative investment into land, Kenichi Suematsu, new chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said Tuesday.

Suematsu, also president of Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, formally succeeded to the federation's chairmanship on the day.

After his installation, Suematsu, who succeeds Fuji Bank head Taizo Hashida, talked to the press about the current problems which the bank industry faces.

He first pointed out that Japanese banks had done considerable harm to their own social credibility in the past year due to excessive lending for speculative investment in land and real estate.

"It is a serious matter for banks, whose business is supported by social trust," said Suematsu, adding that the recovery of such trust through healthier management is most important for the bank industry.

"There is no quick remedy ... We have to do it through daily work," Suematsu said.

Referring to criticisms that banks have focused excessively on profit in recent years, Suematsu said banks do have to turn a profit for themselves as private corporations amid ongoing financial deregulation. But he added that they should consider more sound management practices.

As for Ministry of Finance regulation of growth in bank lending related to land and real estate, Suematsu called it only an "emergency" move. From the broader perspective, land problems should be solved through such means as the taxation system, he said.

However, Suematsu added that the government regulation on lending should be maintained for now because, while the trend of rising land prices has calmed, they are not yet sufficiently stabilized.

* Survey of Investment Strategy in Europe

91MI0253X Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 14 Mar 91 p 14

[Article by Andreas Gandow: "Europe's Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries Still Considered Superior"]

[Text] Tokyo—In the prelude to the completion of the European single market, Japan's involvement in Europe is gaining breadth and depth: Companies are not only setting up Europe-wide sales and information networks but are also transplanting supplier systems to Europe and commencing operations in preliminary production stages (chemical and steel industries) through general trading companies. More and more Japanese companies are setting up special European headquarters to coordinate this complex involvement.

Japanese industry's European strategy is based on comprehensive analyses of the strong and weak points of European competitors. A survey by the Industrial Bank of Japan ("EC 1992 and Japanese Corporations") reaches the following conclusions regarding the branches relevant to Japanese involvement with the EC:

- The iron and steel industry in the EC states is slightly inferior to the Japanese competition in terms of technological level and productivity and lags well behind in profitability. Thus, crude steel production is only 220 tons per employee in the EC as against more than 367 tons in Japan.
- The chemical and pharmaceutical industries in the EC are far superior to the Japanese competition in terms of technological level, performance potential, basic research, internationalization of corporate operations, business position in fine chemicals, and productivity and profitability. Six of the top 10 chemical companies on the international market have their head offices in the EC.
- The European textile industry is regarded as slightly inferior in terms of competitiveness. However, the same profit level is attained with lower productivity, and European high-quality clothing suppliers are clearly superior to the Japanese competition.
- The European automobile industry does not achieve the productivity level of the Japanese competition. Middle-market cars are less, although only slightly less, competitive. Profitability too is slightly below the Japanese level.
- European producers of consumer electronics, office automation systems and equipment, and electronic components are inferior to the Japanese competition and their dependence on supplies from overseas is increasing. European companies mainly lag behind Japan in productivity and profitability. The lag in technological level and product quality, on the other hand is not so great.
- European suppliers of telecommunications systems are technologically advanced, and productivity and profitability match the Japanese level. They are highly competitive. In contrast, information technology is heavily dependent on external supplies, and particularly on American manufacturers for mainframe computers. On the whole, competitiveness is slightly below the Japanese level here.
- In the machine tool and building machinery industries, EC manufacturers and the Japanese suppliers are at about the same technology and profitability levels, whereas there is a slight lag in productivity. European companies show a particularly high level of technology and quality in large-scale plants.
- The European food industry is sufficiently competitive. It is difficult for an outsider to enter the market because the multinational concerns operating in this sector have already developed an omnipresent European distribution system.
- In the building industry, European companies are on a level comparable with Japan in terms of technological level, productivity, and profitability.

In the light of its study, the Industrial Bank of Japan assumes that direct investment by Japanese companies will further increase once the EC single market is established. The ground that Europe needs to make up requires considerable technology transfer so that products for industrial mass production of automobiles, consumer electronics, and electronic components may be developed. The bank explains that this technology transfer will take place through the transplantation of key manufacturing operations, the establishment of R&D and design centers, and the development of efficient suppliers.

A Nomura Research Institute survey of how Japanese companies operate in Europe defines three business policy and organizational goals pursued by Japanese companies:

1. To establish a "fully integrated presence as EC insiders" ranging from research/development and design via manufacturing to Europe-wide coordinated marketing and the creation of efficient customer service systems. The purpose of having development and manufacturing operations is to create original European products that can be marketed worldwide.

2. To organize efficient sales, Europe-wide inhouse information exchange, and accounting systems.

3. To bring on staff that can be assigned throughout Europe.

In the course of their intensive European involvement, Japanese companies establish new European headquarters or expand existing ones to perform four tasks in particular:

- Management support in preparing for and launching new operations in the subsidiaries;
- Coordination of European development, manufacturing, and marketing operations, ensuring that they are in line with the global strategy set out by the company's head office in Japan;
- Provision of executive services for the European subsidiaries (logistics, information, personnel, legal affairs, coordination of public relations work in the broader sense), and
- Controlling the company's entire involvement in Europe.

The European headquarters are financed out of contributions by the subsidiaries for managerial services, allocations from company headquarters in Japan, or financial transactions of their own.

The European headquarters also manage the Japanese companies' business in central and eastern Europe; only business with the USSR is being handled directly from Japan. There is particularly strong interest in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland, both as sales markets and as industrial partners. Interest in Romania and Bulgaria, on the other hand, is merely secondary.

Some Japanese companies prefer to enter central and eastern Europe from bases in Germany, especially in the new laender. However, other companies regard Vienna as the best base for their business in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, all of which is of a long-term nature.

The firms that the Nomura Research Institute cites as exemplary implementers of an effective European strategy include Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., Mitsui & Co. Ltd. general trading company, Kyocera Corporation, which produces industrial fine ceramics and is also extensively engaged in optics and information technology, Omron Corporation, which manufactures measurement, control, and information technology systems, and the building machinery manufacturer, Komatsu Ltd.:

- Panasonic Europe (Headquarters) Ltd. in the United Kingdom, which was incorporated towards the end of 1988, acts as central management for Matsushita Electrical Industrial's European operation. With a staff of about 80 employees (50 percent Japanese), it manages a total of 32 European subsidiaries covering sales (11), production (17), R&D (two), and finance (two) with a total income equivalent to about 4.8 billion German marks [DM]. The chairman of this company has a seat in the parent company's top management in Japan as head of the Europe/Africa division.

The European headquarters' work falls into five areas: corporate planning (including public relations work and the direction of European consultants), management (including accounting), personnel (including personnel development and training), marketing/sales for overall management and support of the individual companies, and manufacturing (supporting the individual companies) and control of R&D work (most of which is currently performed at Office Workstations Ltd. and D2B Systems Co. Ltd. in the United Kingdom) via a future Technical Center/Europe.

- Mitsui & Co., one of Japan's top general trading corporations, set up Mitsui & Co. Europe Ltd. in the United Kingdom in 1974 as its European headquarters, which now controls nine subsidiaries and 23 representatives (nine in central and eastern Europe and 14 in Africa). However, the European subsidiaries' holding company is Mitsui & Co. International (Europe) B.V. in the Netherlands. The head of the European headquarters is a member of the Japanese parent company's board. Just 25 of the European headquarters' 30 or so employees come from Japan. The trading company's total European sales amount to the equivalent of about DM45 billion.

The organizational structure covers all areas of a corporate headquarters, and has a "product/merchandise monitoring department" that is worth a mention. Its job is to ensure strict compliance with the global product/merchandise strategy developed by the general trading corporation at its Japanese head office.

- Late in 1988, Kyocera set up Kyocera Europe GmbH in Germany as its European headquarters controlling the operations of eight sales subsidiaries in Europe. In Germany these are Kyocera Fineceramics (formerly Feldmuehle Kyocera Europe Electronic Components), Kyocera Electronics Europe, and Yashica Kyocera with subsidiaries in Austria and Switzerland. New acquisitions ELCO Electronics GmbH and AVX Ltd. represent an additional involvement in Europe. The European headquarters, which primarily fulfills a supervisory and support role, has a staff of seven.

The projects handled by the European headquarters include launching ceramic tools onto the market, setting up a production base for laser printers in France, and taking over the former joint ventures with Feldmuehle. In addition, this base is engaged in drawing up medium-term European strategy (sales, investments, personnel), coordinates European price policy, and is responsible for devising an inhouse information and reporting system in Europe.

- Omron Corporation's European headquarters, the Omron Management Center of Europe B.V., was set up in the Netherlands at the end of 1988. Three Japanese employees coordinate the operations of 22 subsidiaries. These are mainly sales companies covering process control, sales and accounting systems, medical technology, and office automation systems, although they also include two manufacturing and one finance company. Total European sales amount to the equivalent of well over .5 billion German marks [DM]. There are plans to expand this base into a full-fledged European headquarters over the next few years.

- At Komatsu Ltd. the European business of its five subsidiaries (manufacturing bases: Hanomag AG and Komatsu UK Ltd.) is coordinated by N.V. Komatsu Europe International S.A. in Belgium (five of the eight employees have been seconded from Japan). Total sales in Europe amount to the equivalent of about DM1.3 billion, approximately half of which is produced in Europe.

Routine business is coordinated at monthly conferences on the basis of a revolving production and sales program that is largely established at the local level. Six managerial committees representing the subsidiaries also play an important role in coordinating business policy; they cover material procurement/purchasing, product planning/design, manufacturing, marketing/logistics, accounting/finance, and the information system (the task of which is to organize an inhouse data and information network).

Joint Distribution Project in Siberia Planned

OW2304121291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The National Federation of Agricultural Cooperative Associations on Tuesday disclosed plans to build a large-scale distribution center in Siberia in a joint venture with the Soviet Union's Chemical Exporters Association.

The federation, or "Zenno" as it is known in Japan, said the project calls for construction of a distribution base, equipped with a fertilizer warehouse, near the Siberian port of Nakhodka.

The project, when completed, will help reduce costs of potassium fertilizer imported from the Soviet Union.

The project is estimated to cost several billion yen, the federation said.

Major Japanese trading companies, meanwhile, are studying a plan to modernize harbor facilities near the area.

Zenno said the fertilizer warehouse, with a storage capacity of one million tons, will be built either at Vanino or Vostochny, Siberian ports along the Sea of Japan.

Fertilizer produced in the Ural Mountains and transported via the Trans-Siberian Railway will be stored at the warehouse for shipment to Japan.

Over the last 30 years, Zenno has been importing about 200,000 tons of potassium fertilizer, worth about 6 billion yen, from the Soviet Union annually—nearly 30 percent of its total fertilizer needs.

The imported fertilizer now has to be routed via the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, taking more than one month to reach Japan and raising transportation costs, Zenno officials said.

When the distribution center is completed, the transportation time can be cut to only a few days, the officials said.

They said Zenno is also studying a joint venture with Japanese enterprises to improve access roads to the port and build storage facilities for lumber and coal imported from the Soviet Union.

Details of the project have not yet been decided because it is still unknown who has authority to approve it, the chemical association, the central Soviet Government or the Russian Republic, the officials said.

Industry To Continue UK Auto Export Restraint

OW2204110391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Japan's automobile industry has agreed to continue voluntarily restraining its car exports to Britain in 1991, industry sources said Monday.

The agreement was reached at a meeting held in Yokohama last weekend between the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association and Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, they said.

The sources said the agreement calls for Japanese automakers to limit new car exports to Britain to a maximum of 177,000-199,000 units or 11 percent of sales on the British market in 1991.

The Japanese automobile industry has voluntarily controlled their car exports to Britain since 1975.

The export ceiling has since been negotiated annually between the two auto industries. The limit has been pegged at 11 percent.

The sources said the British side estimated sales on the British car market this year at 1,607,000 units, far below last year's 2,008,934 units.

Japanese industry put the estimate at 1,808,000 units, down about 10 percent from last year, they said.

Sales of Japanese cars in Britain totalled 207,346 units last year, accounting for a little over 10 percent of the market, the sources said.

The meeting was attended by Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Co. and head of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, and Geoffrey Whalen, head of the British group and president of Peugeot Talbot.

Mitsubishi To Develop SRV Oil Resources

OW2304061691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Mitsubishi Oil Co. said Tuesday it will join other Japanese and foreign oil firms in developing undersea oil resources off Vietnam.

Kikuo Yamada, president of the Tokyo-based firm, said the decision has been conveyed to Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi.

More than a dozen Japanese and foreign oil companies, including British Petroleum and Showa Shell Sekiyu, an affiliate of Royal Dutch Shell, have announced they will participate in the project.

Yamada told reporters it is necessary for Japan to secure supplies of high-quality oil nearer home.

Vietnam's oil production today amounts to only 70,000 barrels per day although its untapped reserves are estimated at 20 billion barrels.

Industry sources said the country's output would increase to 700,000 barrels per day in the near future.

Oil produced in Vietnam is of high quality with a low sulfur content, the sources said.

The Soviet Union has withdrawn from joint development of oil resources in Vietnam, they said.

MITI To Impose Import Quota on Sea Turtle

OW2204135291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Monday said the government will ban imports of another species of endangered sea turtle amid growing international criticism of Japan's imports of animals that face extinction.

The ban on all imports of olive ridley turtles will start April 30, MITI officials said.

The olive ridley is included in the convention on the international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, which bans trade in endangered species.

Japan holds reservations to the agreement on 10 species, including two kinds of sea turtles—the olive ridley and the hawksbill—because of the damage a complete import ban would do to domestic industries.

Increasingly harsh criticism from environmentalists, and other governments, especially the U.S. Government, of Japan's imports of these species prompted MITI to put a clamp on imports of the hides and shell of the olive ridley, the officials said.

The government already limits hawksbill imports, and now is considering a complete ban.

Japan's hawksbill imports have recently become a dispute between Japan and the U.S., as Washington has called for a ban on hawksbill imports, claiming the practice violates the Pelly amendment of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967.

The Pelly amendment, however, does not specify any one species of sea turtle, but concerns sea turtles in general, the officials say.

"The U.S., for some unknown reason, focused on the hawksbill, but the Pelly amendment also requires a ban on imports of the olive ridley," said Norihiro Yokoyama of MITI's recreation and miscellaneous goods division.

Japan's annual import olive ridley hides has ranged from 4.1 tons to 39.6 tons in the past five years, with the value ranging from 70 million yen to 189 million yen.

They are used for making handbags, shoes, belts, and other leather products, MITI said.

Matsushita To Sell Digital Video Camcorder

OW2304061891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0522 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. said Tuesday it will begin selling in May the world's lightest video camcorder, featuring digital technology and 12 times zoom magnification.

Company officials said the NV-S5 compact camcorder will be sold at consumer electronics stores from May 10 at a retail price of 165,000 yen, excluding a 3 percent consumption tax.

The company plans to manufacture 50,000 units a month, the officials said.

Matsushita achieved the 12 times zoom magnification by integrating double-sided aspherical lenses, which were jointly developed by Matsushita and Sumita Optical Glass Inc., and digital technology.

The small-sized, lightweight camcorder was produced by incorporating a new 170 gram drive mechanism which is 100 grams lighter than that used in the firm's previous models.

Sony Corp's lightest camcorder weighs in at 690 grams and has a zoom magnification of 10 times.

Both companies are fighting to have their different video formats accepted as the world standard.

North Korea

Paper 'Warns' South About Unilateral UN Entry

SK2304053391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 23 Apr 91

["Unpardonable Anti-National Crime"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities force their "unilateral entry into the United Nations" intended to keep the nation divided for ever by abusing the name of the United Nations, they will be held responsible for permanent division before the history and the nation and find themselves a target of curses and condemnation by our nation and the world's progressive mankind, warns NODONG SINMUN today.

Recalling that some time ago the South Korean authorities expressed their intention to "enter the United Nations" by submitting a "government memorandum" to the U.N., the news analyst says:

The question of Korea's entry into the U.N. is a matter related to the right to self-determination of our nation and it must be decided according to the will of the whole nation under all circumstances.

It is impudent and shameless of the No Tae-u group, a colonial puppet, to try to force the splittist scheme for its "unilateral U.N. membership".

The South Korean authorities argue that if they entered the United Nations first, peace on the Korean peninsula would be guaranteed by "international arbitration" and favourable conditions for North-South contact and dialogue be created and that their "unilateral U.N. membership" would "promote" the North's "entry into the U.N."

This is nothing but a base jugglery with words meant to create the impression that they are interested in reunification and peace in Korea and thus attain their "U.N. membership" at all costs.

It is not because the North and the South remain outside the United Nations or because there is no "international arbitration" that tensions have been created on the Korean peninsula and confrontation between the North and South continues but because the South Korean authorities instigated by the U.S. imperialists are seeking vicious anti-communist confrontation and kicking up a racket of war against the North.

We declare in explicit terms that the South Korean authorities' schemings for "simultaneous or unilateral entry into the United Nations" is a criminal act tantamount to recognising the division caused by foreign forces and internationally legalising "two Koreas".

The way of solving the question of U.N. membership in conformity with the will and interests of the nation lies in that Korea enters it with a single nomenclature after reunification through confederation and, in case North and South are to enter it before reunification, they share one seat, stresses the commentary.

Officials, Politicians View South's Yi Chong-ku

South's Yi Ki-paek Comments

SK2004054991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 20 Apr 91

["KSDP Denounces Outburst of South Korean 'Defence Minister' for War Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Yi Ki-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, said that the utterances of the South Korean puppet "defence minister" threatening to "throw commandoes into the North to surprise and destroy its atomic reactor facilities" were an open declaration of war against the North. This revealed an unpardonable criminal war hysteria to lay our land waste and exterminate our 70 million fellow countrymen, he added.

In his talk to the press Friday he noted that the No Tae-u ruling group, for all its loud talk about "peace" and "unification", seeks, in actuality, a nuclear war against the North, not minding the destruction of the nation.

If the No Tae-u ruling group wants to have dealings with us, it must, first of all, dismiss Yi Chong-ku, a nuclear warmaniac, from the post of the puppet defence minister, apologize to our people in the northern half of Korea and declare to the world that it would renounce the scheme to invade the North, he stated, and stressed:

We are sharply watching the reckless new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling group and solemnly warn them not to act rashly.

The Korean Social Democratic Party, extending warm encouragement to all the political parties, organisations and the people of all strata of South Korea that are condemning the outbursts of the No Tae-u ruling group for northward invasion, expresses the hope that they will fight it out to probe the truth behind the warlike utterances and remove the forces which have fallen into war hysteria from the nation, Yi Ki-paek said.

Chong Sin-hyok Voices Opinion

SK2004064791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 20 Apr 91

["Chondoist Chongu Party Lashes at Outburst of South Korean Military Boss"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, in a press statement Friday branded the bellicose outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to "surprise and destroy the atomic reactor facilities of the North" as an open declaration of war and a very dangerous military provocation.

This remark came at a time when the U.S. imperialists were running about recklessly, having become extremely arrogant with the destruction of the balance of forces in the international arena in recent years. This shows well that the No Tae-u ruling group is, indeed, an out-and-out war henchman of the U.S. imperialists and their despicable puppet and traitor that does not mind the destruction of the nation, clean indifferent to peace of the country and its reunification. [sentence as received]

If the South Korean bellicose elements provoke another war of aggression against us at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, it would inevitably expand into a total war plunging the whole nation into an irretrievable catastrophic disaster and gravely wreck peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

He stressed:

The criminal plot of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group to provoke a war must be stopped at once and the South Korean bellicose elements who are runinng riot at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists must be unconditionally removed from our nation.

If the No Tae-u ruling group continues to take the road of anti-communist confrontation and war, it will face a stern judgement by the nation.

Yu Ho-chun Urges Dismissal

SK2104101191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0901 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—Warmaniacs of South Korea such as the puppet defence minister must be removed from the nation and the No Tae-u ruling group must admit the graveness of the situation, apologize to the nation and declare it will not provoke a war against the North.

Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], demanded this in a talk to the press Saturday denouncing the bellicose outburst of the puppet defence minister of South Korea threatening to surprise and destroy our "atomic reactor facilities."

He branded the military outcry of the puppet army boss as an unpardonable anti-national criminal act to harass the peace of the country, pursue a war, refuse North-South dialogue and seek confrontation and the destruction of the nation.

It is, he said, not accidental that warmaniac Yi Chong-ku's bellicose outburst came at a time when the U.S. ruling quarters worked out what they call "120-day war scenario" against the North and are forcing the puppets to sign the aggressive "host nation wartime support agreement."

The U.S. imperialists who have deployed 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea and the South Korean authorities are taking issue with our non-existing "nuclear facilities" in an effort to ignite a total war against our Republic and use nuclear weapons, justifying it beforehand, he pointed out.

He warned that we will keenly watch every move of the aggressors and the traitors with heightened revolutionary vigilance against the new war provocation manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

Youth Leader Demands Ouster

*SK2304051791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0417 GMT 23 Apr 91*

["Bellicose Elements Must Be Removed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, in a statement to the press on April 22 branded the utterances of the South Korean military boss threatening to "throw commandoes and surprise and destroy the atomic reactor facilities of the North" as a downright declaration of a war and a vicious military provocation against us.

The No Tae-u group, in a hasty effort to save the situation, said that his remarks were "a slip of the tongue" and were "withdrawn" and is now telling the lie that he meant to surprise and destroy the atomic reactor facilities of the North in case the North came in "attack", Choe Yong-hae said, and went on:

The No group clearly revealed through the bellicose outburst of the puppet defence minister that it is an anti-national criminal group dreaming of only "unification by prevailing over communism" by force of arms, disregarding the holocaust to be inflicted on the whole nation and the territory of the country by the war.

As long as such bellicose elements as No Tae-u ruling group are left in South Korea, it is difficult to have dialogue and contact between the North and the South or to expect peaceful reunification.

We strongly demand that the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group discontinue at once their criminal war provocation moves and the bellicose elements of South Korea who are running about recklessly be removed immediately for the sake of peace and security on the Korean peninsula and peace in Asia and the world, stressed Choe Yong-hae.

Federation Head Views Remarks

*SK2304115391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1028 GMT 23 Apr 91*

["South Korean Warmaniacs Will Face Thousand-Fold Retaliation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, made public a statement on April 22 denouncing the recent outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to surprise and destroy the "atomic reactor facilities" of the North.

Branding the open declaration of the South Korean military boss to attack the North by force of arms as an anti-national criminal act, ignoring North-South dialogue and negating peaceful reunification, Won Tong-kgu said:

I clearly confirmed once again through his outburst that "detente", "dialogue" and "reunification" loudly cried for by the South Korean authorities so far are a false propaganda to cover up their war policy and their attempt to invade the North.

The South Korean authorities have not yet given up their wild ambition to realize "unification by prevailing over communism" through a war, dreaming of "unification of the systems".

Our socialist system of chuche is a mighty and indestructible bulwark which no force can destroy and the steel-like single-hearted unity of our people is a most solid unity in the world which no enemy can break.

If the warmaniacs of South Korea dare to play with fire to vanquish us, they will face a thousand-fold retaliation.

South 'Politician' Views U.S. Troop Withdrawl

*SK2304104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 23 Apr 91*

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party", requested a press interview Monday on the South Korean puppet defence minister's recent blast threatening to destroy the North's "atomic reactor facilities".

Giving, to begin with, the impressions he got while going round the West Sea barrage in Nampo Municipality that day, he said. I was moved by the fact that this grand structure was built by People's Army soldiers. I was told in the South that the People's Army of the North was bent on preparations for invading the South. But I saw at first hand here that the People's Army is mobilized largely in economic construction, not in war preparations.

The North has prepared itself to retaliate a thousand-fold on the U.S. imperialists' aggression with strength more powerful than nuclear weapons, the great leader and the entire people united in one body, he stressed.

Branding the utterances made by the South Korean puppet defence minister recently as an unpardonable aggressive, belligerent blast quite like the declaration of a war, he said:

I want to ask the South Korean authorities one question.

Why do they provoke the North to a war, threatening to destroy its "atomic reactor facilities" whose existence they are not sure of, by hurling "commando units", while refusing to get more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons illegally deployed at 120 U.S. bases in Kunsan, Ulsan and other areas of South Korea withdrawn, or have them inspected? Why do the "National Assemblymen" who style themselves representatives of 42 million people remain an onlooker, taking a nap?

Above all the "National Assembly" should summon "Defence Minister" Li Chong-ku and carry a non-confidence motion at its plenary session according to the paragraph of impeachment and prosecution stipulated in

"Article 128 of the National Assembly law" and dismiss him in its name. Only then can the "National Assembly" have the authority as the body representing the people. And only when they find out the epicentre of the utterances and pass a criminal punishment on Yi Chong-ku by invoking "Article 120 of the National Assembly law, the rights to investigation into the state affairs", can the "National Assemblymen" save face.

From a fair stand, I would like to strongly urge the South Korean "National Assemblymen" one more thing.

If they want to come to Pyongyang and participate in the 85th Inter-parliamentary Conference, they must abolish the "National Security Law" quickly.

If they return to Seoul after visiting Pyongyang, with the "National Security Law" left intact, they are bound to serve a prison term like Yim Su-kyong, on the charge of infiltration and escape stipulated in "Article 6 of the National Security Law".

How can they have the face to come to Pyongyang, while woman student Yim Su-kyong and other gallant messengers of national reunification are suffering behind bars on the unreasonable charges of the violation of the "National Security Law"?

I want the "National Assembly" to scrap the "National Security Law" and honorably participate in the Pyongyang international conference and join me in inspecting the development of Pyongyang.

If "National Assemblymen", without missing this opportunity, have the courage to lay a resolution on the U.S. troops pullout before the "National Assembly" and, even if it may be dealt with at the extraordinary session in May, form an "ad hoc committee". Before participating in the Pyongyang international conference, they will be enthusiastically congratulated and hailed by parliamentarians from all countries participating in the conference.

I hope that the South Korean "National Assemblymen". Will share the idea with me and turn out in a movement for getting the U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and receiving compensation for the losses from the United States and bear a fine fruit in this movement.

Defector on 'Disillusion' With South's System

SK2204124891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1059 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-sik (36) took advantage of foreign tour to come over to the northern half of Korea from South Korea some time ago.

He, hailing from Yonsan County, South Chungchong Province, served in the puppet army for three years before getting a job of selling books and recording cassettes in South Korean Kangwon Province, North Chungchong and North and South Kyongsang Provinces.

Referring to the motive of his coming over to the northern half of Korea, he said that listening to Radio Pyongyang from 8 years ago he was convinced of the superiority of the ideology, ideal and system of the North over the South and understood that in the North everyone is living evenly well with a stable job.

He said he has since realized that the anti-communist propaganda in the South was all false. He stressed he hardened his determination to come over to the northern half of Korea, feeling the sorrow of disillusion about the society of the South where there is no political freedom, the gap between the poor and the rich is serious and crime is prevalent.

South Army Private Claims Rights Violations

SK2204113991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—A runaway private of the puppet army Choe Hong-ki in Seoul on April 1, charged that the No Tae-u ruling group is conscripting student activists by force and ruthlessly violating their human rights, the South Korean newspaper TONG-A ILBO April 16 said.

He said that he was conscripted into the puppet army in January last for the mere reason that he had participated in student movement, studying at Kunsan College in North Cholla Province and was beaten several times every day during his three month service, his nose cartilage and teeth broken.

He also testified to such violation of human rights as being forced to lick others' military boots.

Daily on Calls for Arrest of Students in South

SK2004104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 20 Apr 91

["Rule by Force of Arms Cannot Be Way Out"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group ordered the police across South Korea to promptly arrest student Yi Chol-song, chairman of the General Student Council of Seoul National University and vice-chairman of Chondaehyop, and seven other hard-core members of Chondaehyop and set a prize of 500,000 won on their heads, saying that meetings and demonstrations in university towns would be orchestrated by Chondaehyop this year.

This proves that the No Tae-u ruling group are running wild with bloodshot eyes to suppress and stamp out "Chondaehyop", a legitimate organisation of one million students of South Korea, NODONG SINMUN today says, and goes on:

The No Tae-u ruling group, branding Chondaehyop as an "organisation benefiting the enemy," inflicted heavy penalty upon woman student Yim Su-kyong, who had participated in the Pyongyang festival as a delegate of Chondaehyop, on charge of violating the "National Security Law" and have systematically suppressed its hard-core members including former Chairman Im Chong-sok.

Chondaehyop, however, set the anti-"DLP" struggle, anti-U.S. struggle and the struggle for reunification as the direction for its struggle and has waged the vigorous struggle.

The struggle of Chondaehyop is a righteous patriotic struggle to drive out the outside forces, reunify the bisected country and achieve democracy in South Korean society.

Nevertheless, the No Tae-u ruling group is resorting to a fascist suppressive offensive to obliterate this organisation in an attempt to repress the students who have been the vanguards of struggle in South Korea and prevent more spread of the struggle of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification.

Bayonet is not almighty and it cannot be a way out for the No Tae-u ruling group.

The more the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group intensify suppression, brandishing bayonet, the greater it will invite resistance and struggle of the patriotic students and people.

U.S. Conducts Aerial Exercise in South 19 Apr

SK2104101891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0906 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command on April 19 staged another round of joint air strike and joint ground strike exercises against the North with the air above South Korea as the operational theatre, according to military sources.

These exercises in the air above Oeyon and Anmyon Islands, Wonju, Kangnung, Yoju and Chungju involved dozens of nuclear-capable "F-15" fighter-bombers brought to the Osan Base from the Kadena Base, Japan, and "F-16", "F- 4", "F-5", "F-86" and "A-37" fighter-bombers and assault planes, above 250 in all, belonging to the U.S. 7th Airforce and the puppet airforce.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Pacific Navy command moved formations of "A-6" assault planes from the Iwakuni and Atsuki Bases of Japan to the Osan airforce base in South Korea that day.

On the same day the South Korean puppets staged a ground attack operation against the North with the support of dozens of "F-16", "F-4", "F-5" and "A-37" warplanes by massively mobilising the ground force to the Kapyong and Uijongbu areas.

That day the U.S. imperialists let fly such early warning planes, high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and tactical reconnaissance planes as "E-3a", "U-2", "RC-12" and "RV-1" to the air above the Military Demarcation Line in succession and committed an intensive aerial espionage on our side's areas.

On April 18 and 19 the warplanes that flew above South Korea in the aerial war exercise numbered more than 1,120.

Paper Decries South Signing Accord With U.S.

SK2204113791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1007 GMT 22 Apr 91

["Undisguised Preparations for War Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—The United States and the South Korean authorities will shortly conclude the wartime host nations support "agreement," according to a foreign press report.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as undisguised preparations for war against the North, which go against peace and reunification of Korea.

The projected "agreement" is a despicable product of the United States' line of war and anti-communist, anti-socialist strategy and the South Korean authorities' U.S.-toeing stand and anti-DPRK policy, an unprecedentedly brigandish and sycophantic document of aggression and treachery between the master and servant and another diabolic extended version of the agreement on the transfer of command, the news analyst says, and goes on:

Through this "agreement" the United States intends to bind South Korea tighter to its war chariot, keep hold on the South Korean puppets as its war servants and start another war of aggression against the Korean people.

The South Korean authorities are trying to remain in the reactionary power with the recourse to the U.S. forces' bayonet in return for leaving a half of Korea at the mercy of the imperialists.

It is very ill-boding that the report about this document of war and treachery is synchronizing with the outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to "surprise and destroy the North's atomic reactor facilities".

The U.S. imperialists who are getting extremely arrogant and openly revealing their bellicose nature, are contemplating to unleash another war of aggression in Korea so as to push ahead with their anti-socialist Asia-Pacific strategy, weaken the socialist position in Asia and gratify their wild ambition for world supremacy.

The collusion between aggression and treachery with the wartime host nations support "agreement" only increases the danger of a war against the North on the Korean peninsula, betraying the anti-peace, anti-reunification and anti-dialogue stand of the United States and the South Korean puppets.

The belligerent moves of the warmaniacs and traitors will only precipitate their own doom.

Soviet Trade, Economic Delegation Arrives

SK2304043391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0414 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—A Soviet Government trade and economic delegation led by A.I. Kachanov, first vice-minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union, arrived here Monday.

Officials Attend Film Show at Soviet Embassy

SK2304045691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—A film show was arranged at the Soviet Embassy here Monday on the occasion of the 121st birthday of V.I. Lenin.

Present there on invitation were Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, Yi In-kyu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, O Mun-han and O Kil-pang, vice-chairmen of the C.C., the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and other officials concerned.

Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Kapto and his embassy officials were present.

A Soviet film was screened on the occasion.

Labor Minister Delegation Departs for China

SK2104095491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0859 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—A DPRK delegation led by Yi Chae-yun, minister of labour administration, left here Saturday to participate in the 12th Conference of Ministers of Labour of Asia-Pacific Regional Countries to be held in China and members of a visiting group to see the 41st World Table Tennis Championships in Japan and reporters covering it left Wonsan port on the same day.

WPK Provincial Committee Delegates Go to China

SK2204153591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the South Pyongan provincial committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] headed by its secretary Hwang Myong-tok left Pyongyang today for a visit to Sichuan Province of China.

Korean Youth in Japan Mark Uprising in ROK

SK2204052491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo April 19 (KNS-KCNA)—A central meeting of the Korean youth and students in Japan was held in Tokyo on April 18 to support and encourage the struggle of South Korean students and people in commemoration of the 31st anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising.

Speaking at the meeting, Yi Myong-kyon, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, said that the April 19 popular uprising was a massive anti-U.S. nation-saving struggle of the South Korean students and people for new politics, new system and new life. Today the ardent desire of the April 19 uprisers for reunification is carried forward by the struggle of the South Korean students and people for independence, democracy and reunification, he noted.

He expressed warm support and encouragement to the South Korean students and people who are struggling with youthful passion, upholding the banner of independence, democracy and reunification.

He stressed that the Korean youth and students in Japan should valiantly turn out to the struggle for further developing the movement for national reunification.

Speeches were made by students.

An appeal to the South Korean youth and students was adopted at the meeting.

Yang Hyong-sop Meets With Zimbabwean Delegation

SK2304050091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], Monday met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with Nolan Chipo Makombe, speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe, when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Present there were SPA Vice-Chairman Paek In-chun and members of the Zimbabwean parliamentary delegation.

Nolan Chipo Makombe said on the occasion that the friendly relations between the two peoples based on the deep intimacy between the heads of state of the two countries are developing day by day.

Elaborating on the stand of Zimbabwe on the Korean people's efforts for national reunification, he said the Zimbabwean party, government and people express deep respect for the Great His Excellency President Kim Il-song who is devoting his great efforts to the reunification of the country.

Paper Dedicates Article to Kim Il-song Work

SK2304115791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song published the immortal classical work "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People" at the National Conference of Active Educational Workers on April 25, 1961.

It is a highly important work which clearly indicated the orientation and ways that the party and state of the working class should firmly adhere to in educating the children and youth after the establishment of the socialist system.

NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 30th anniversary of the publication of this work.

The author of the article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his work expounded the duty of educational workers first of all.

He said:

"... The party has given the educational workers the important job of educating and training our younger generation to be reliable builders of socialism and communism, to be fully developed, excellent communists. This is a very difficult and weighty task."

The great leader defined it as an important duty of the educational workers to raise the younger generation to be reliable builders of socialism and communism, to be fully developed communists, on the basis of the law of the building of socialism and communism and the development of man, and thus opened a definite road along which the socialist education could continuously develop in conformity with the requirements of the developing revolution.

To educate and transform the people on a communistic line is an essential task for the building of socialism and communism.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the work, basing himself on the intrinsic demand of the socialist society and a scientific analysis of ideological and moral traits of the communist revolutionaries, propounded the aim of school education and the content and method of communist education in socialist society.

School education under the socialist system aims at arming the students with the communist idea and upbringing them to be the builders of communism possessed of knowledge and technology for the building of a new society.

The theory and method of socialist pedagogy expounded in the work for the first time are a theoretical and practical weapon that must be always adhered to in raising school children and youth, a programme of education on which the party and the state of the world class must depend in building socialism and communism.

Today the validity and vitality of the idea and theory advanced in the work are being given fuller play daily under the wise leadership of our party.

Editorials Mark Lenin's 121st Birth Anniversary

'Thinker, Theoretician' Praised

SK2204125991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 22 (KCNA)—The banner of Lenin, the banner of socialism, will shine forever in the hearts of the working class and other working people who oppose exploitation and oppression and aspire after independence, freedom and progress, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in an editorial article dedicated to the 121st birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin.

Noting that Lenin devoted all his life to the noble revolutionary cause of the freedom and liberation of the working class and the oppressed people of the world and performed imperishable exploits for the victory of socialism and communism, the article continues:

Lenin was a distinguished thinker, theoretician and revolutionary who began his revolutionary activities in the period of the transition of monopoly capitalism to imperialism.

He defended the revolutionary principle and quintessence of Marxism through an uncompromising struggle against all sorts of opportunistic tendencies and propounded Leninism by creatively developing Marxism in keeping with the new historical conditions of the period of imperialism and proletarian revolution.

Basing himself on a scientific analysis of imperialism, he clarified the reactionary nature and historical position of imperialism, explained the inevitability of its downfall and propounded a theory on the possibility of the victory of socialist revolution in a country for the first time in history.

He worked out the programme of socialist construction and laid down an idea and theory on the building of a revolutionary party of the working class.

He was a great practician and leader who put into reality the thought of socialism and founded the first socialist state in the world.

The great victory of the October socialist revolution was a historic event which shattered the myth about the "durability" of capitalism and opened a new epoch when mankind switched over to socialism from capitalism.

After the victory of the revolution, Lenin led the Bolshevik Party, the Russian working class and other working masses to defend the gains of the revolution and pioneered an untrodden path in socialist construction, smashing the attack of foreign imperialists and counterrevolutionary bandits who were trying to destroy the young Soviet in the cradle.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

"The advance along the road of socialism is the main trend of historical progress. Socialism is the only road for mankind to take."

Socialism, which was started by the Great October Socialist Revolution and has made a victorious advance, has eliminated the age-long, outmoded societies and become both the motive force of history creating new people-orientated societies and the banner of man's emancipation that inspires the world's people in their struggle for independence.

The world's people have vigorously fought to realise independence since the first socialist state was founded by Lenin.

The imperialists employ every conceivable means and method to weaken and destroy socialism.

The so-called "peaceful transition" strategy of the U.S. imperialists is, in essence, aimed at disuniting the socialist countries from within and bringing them under their political and economic domination. The prevailing situation makes it incumbent on the world's progressive people to hold higher the banner of anti-imperialist independence and socialism, not being taken in by the imperialists' honeyed words and not pinning hopes on their deceptive "aid".

There may be temporary setbacks and turns and twists in the course of historical progress, but it is an immovable law that human societies develop into socialism from capitalism.

The people who defend truth and principle and advance in the direction of historical trend are sure to win victory. This is an important lesson which the contemporary time gives to mankind on the threshold of the 21st Century amidst the complicated struggle between progress and reaction, between socialism and imperialism and in the confused situation.

The Korean people will staunchly fight as ever against the imperialists' anti-socialist policy and aggressive moves and for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism and the cause of independence throughout the world under the revolutionary banner of socialism.

MINJU CHOSON on 'Exploits'

SK2304111891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today dedicates an editorial article to the 121st birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin, the great teacher and outstanding leader of the international working classes.

It quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Lenin devoted his entire life to the highest revolutionary cause of freedom and liberation for the international working classes and the oppressed nations all over the world. His exploits for the victory of socialism and communism will live for ever."

Lenin devoted his all to the struggle against imperialism and for the liberation of the working class and the oppressed working masses, the article says, and goes on:

He had tireless thinking and conducted energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

He developed Marxism into the revolutionary theory and strategy and tactics in the period of imperialism, indicating the road of liberation struggle of the working class and oppressed people and giving them confidence of victory. Through the uncompromising struggle against all sorts of enemy, Lenin founded the Bolshevik Party, a party of new type of the working class guided by Marxism-Leninism for the first time in the history of the revolutionary movement of the Russian people.

He carried out the October Socialist Revolution triumphantly by leading the Russian working class and working masses and overthrew the regime of the exploiting class for the first time in history and founded the first Soviet Socialist Republic, the state of workers and peasants in the world.

Under his leadership the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet Russian people crushed the armed intervention of the imperialist allied forces and the repeated counterrevolutionary offensives of the whites at home aimed to destroy the young Soviet state in the cradle and pioneered the untrodden road towards socialism, consolidating and developing the gains of the October revolution.

His revolutionary life and feats are, indeed, shining long in the history of mankind.

The present international situation is still remaining tense and complex and acute antagonism and struggle are continuing between socialism and imperialism and between progress and reaction.

With the destruction of the equilibrium of strength in international relations, the U.S. imperialists are arrogantly building up arms, actively stepping up the production and deployment of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons and making no scruple of brigandish armed invasion into sovereign states.

The prevailing situation shows that all the peaceloving people of the world must not be taken in by honeyed words of the imperialists and not pin their hope on deceptive "aid" but advance, holding higher the banner of anti-imperialist independence.

Although there may be temporary setbacks and turns and twists in the course of historic progress, it is an unbreakable law that mankind advances along the road of independence, the road of socialism.

'Superiority' of Style of Socialism Stressed

SK2304130891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0018 GMT 22 Apr 91

[NODONG SINMUN 22 April editorial: "Let Us Deeply Understand the Superiority of Our Own Style of Socialism Through Realities"]

[Text] Our party members and working people now face an important duty, a brilliant implementation of the long-range task of socialist construction presented by our party, with a firm faith in the our own style of socialism. What is important in fulfilling this task is to deeply understand the superiority of socialism through our living realities.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught: We should make party members and working people deeply understand the essence and superiority of our own style of socialism and should tirelessly struggle to achieve the goal of consummating the socialist cause with a firm conviction in socialism.

It is an important policy that our party has consistently maintained in the indoctrination work of party members and working people in order to make party members and working people clearly understand the superiority of socialism through the realities in our country. We who are advancing along the unique path of socialism under the banner of the chuche idea should know more about our own style of socialism, which has stuck its roots deep into our country, and should deeply understand its superiority.

Our country's socialism is now demonstrating its great superiority in all areas of the revolution and of construction under the wise leadership of the party and leader.

Realities in our country are indeed the most [words indistinct] that enables one to correctly see its true picture and vitality. Only when they know graphically well how our own style of socialism demonstrates its might in reality, then can party members and working people firmly prepare themselves as true revolutionaries who live and struggle under any adverse situation, upholding the socialist banner.

The imperialists, including the U.S. imperialists and the pro-imperialist propaganda machines, while noisily clamoring about the crisis facing socialism, are maliciously slandering and undermining the socialist system. However, the realities in our country, where a new socialist life is blossoming, reveal in full view how preposterous the imperialists' sophistry is.

The more the imperialists strengthen their maneuvers for ideological and cultural infiltration in order to break the faith in socialism which is in the hearts of the people, the more aggressive we should be in carrying out the work designed to make party members and working people deeply understand the superiority of socialism through our history and realities.

Above all, party members and working people should deeply understand the successes that our own style of socialism has attained in the course of creatively exploring a new path of historic development with concrete historical data.

Fully analyzing in his recent documents the course of struggle, during which our own style of socialism has stuck its roots and during which we have established the socialist system in our own way under the banner of the chuche idea, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has clearly explained the historic foundation on which our own style of socialism can display its great superiority.

Only when we clearly know the historic course that our own style of socialism has traversed can we better see its uniqueness.

All party members and working people should well understand how the great leader made our socialism strike its historic roots during the days of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and amid what an arduous struggle the original model of our people's government was shaped through a variety of historic realities.

At the same time, we should fully and deeply grasp the history in which we have built the most solid socialist system after carrying out a democratic revolution and a socialist revolution in our own way, according to the desire of our people and to the concrete realities of our country. In this way, we should correctly understand the uniqueness of our socialism, unheard of anywhere else in the world, in the perspective of historic development.

Also, through this course we should cherish as a faith deep in our hearts the greatness of the party and of the leader which have thoroughly carried out enormous sociopolitical and economic changes in accordance with the desire of the working class, with scientific vision and firm revolutionary principles.

We should also vividly and deeply understand the superiority of our socialism through our dignified and happy political life, economic life, and ideological and cultural life. Our people enjoy a happy and rewarding life under the socialist system.

All party members and working people should avoid being inattentive to the happy life they enjoy today; instead, they should try to find out how great is displayed the superiority of our own style of socialism in the concrete realities of our life. Through their experience, party members and working people should deeply understand that our own style of socialism is indeed a superior system which provides everyone with an equal material life that makes everyone affluent, without making any distinction between the rich and the poor, and which provides everyone with an affluent cultural life that allows all people to create and enjoy their culture.

In particular, they should clearly understand that our political life—in which all the people freely participate in the management of state affairs and in sociopolitical activity as true masters of the government, and which endlessly glorifies their noble sociopolitical life by being lined up behind sociopolitical organizations—is truly rewarding without comparison.

It is important to understand the superiority of our socialist life in comparison with the rotten and sick capitalist life. Even the imperialists are feverish in their attempt to beautify capitalism, and modern capitalist society is neither a welfare society or a kingdom of freedom as they portray it to be. It is a society of the rich-getting-richer and the poor-getting-poorer, where a large number of people are forced to suffer a tragic life which is far below the poverty line; it is a rotten and decadent society where the illiterate and the mentally crippled grow in number daily and people are increasingly sinking into uneasiness and despair. Such is today's capitalist society.

We should never forget under any circumstances that the material life, the ideological and cultural life, and the political life that our people enjoy is a superior life, a life that is a world apart from the capitalist life. In this way, we should always have contempt for the capitalist life, should have a high sense of class superiority and pride, and should never allow any unhealthy elements to eat away at socialism or to penetrate into our society, no matter how slight they may be.

Also, party members and working people should cherish as a faith the superiority of our own style of socialism through the appearance of the fatherland, which is becoming more prosperous with each passing day. Our fatherland has survived since the beginning of the era of the workers' party through a sea of changes. Even today, great monumental creations are endlessly erupting in various places of the fatherland, stunning the world.

When one gets down to the nitty-gritty of the proud realities in our fatherland, one naturally sees faith in the superiority of our system growing in their hearts.

All party members and working people should deeply etch in their hearts that which made it possible to build a large number of construction projects such as Sohae Lockgate, Sunchon Vinalon Complex, and Kwangbok Street which have been completed in so short a time under the leadership of the party.

They should deeply understand the invincible might of the society system in which the leader, the party, and the popular masses are firmly united with a single ideology and a single will; they should also understand the vitality of our national economy of self-reliance in which anything can be made once the decision is made.

We should treasure, handle with care, and cultivate as if they were our own everything that demonstrates the superiority of our own style of socialism as well as our cities, rural communities, streets, villages, and facilities.

Party organizations and propaganda functionaries should render indoctrination on our own style of socialism based substantially on the eye-catching successes attained by our party and people in socialist construction, successes that we can be proud of before the world. Party organizations should conduct indoctrination on the superiority of our country's socialism with intensity and with the help of lectures, commentaries, visually aided propaganda, and story-telling meetings, as well as by employing many other ways and forms, so as to fill all forms of the ideological indoctrination with this kind of indoctrination.

In particular, a great deal of attention should be directed to making the new, growing generation correctly understand the essence and vitality of our own style of socialism.

Party organizations should actively guide all the youth and children so as to make them cherish deep in their hearts the great pride and dignity of living under the most superior socialist system unheard of elsewhere in the world, and resolutely struggle to glorify them from generation to generation.

LSWYK Holds Plenary Meeting at Mining Complex

SK2004052191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The 18th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] was held at the Komdok Mining Complex Friday.

The meeting summed up the achievements made in the work of bringing the greatness of the Workers' Party of Korea home to the young people in the past and discussed the task of the LSWYK organisations to develop in depth this work in conformity with the requirement of the developing revolution and unite all the young people more closely around the party.

The reporter and speakers said that the revolutionary outlook on the leader has been firmly established among the young people, the method and style of work of the LSWYK officials improved and a turn brought about in the spiritual and moral trait and life of the youth and children.

They laid stress on sturdily rearing all the young people to be chuche-type communist revolutionaries who would cast in their lot with the party, on the LSWYK officials boldly designing the work and pushing it with vigor and carrying on education among the young people in various forms and ways.

Mines Achieve 'High', 'Steady' Production Rate

SK2304115991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—The Komdok mining complex, a powerful lead and zinc production centre of Korea, is achieving a high and steady rate of production.

The complex with 120 promising cutting faces and a million ton capacity of ore dressing facilities has set a target this year to produce nearly 1.4 times as much lead and zinc as an all-time high.

The complex has launched a vigorous campaign for increased production from the beginning of the year and turned out 34,000 more tons of lead and zinc as of April 20 than in the corresponding period of last year.

In this period the complex overfulfilled its ten day, monthly and first quarterly year plans and scores of its production units carried out their first half of the year plan ahead of schedule.

The Kumgol branch mine and the July 1 branch mine have secured many cutting faces and increased the utility rate of excavating frames, loaders, tramcars, hutches and other equipment, overfulfilling daily plans.

The Roun mine is pushing ahead with the project of developing new sections for brighter prospect, while keeping steady production.

The 12-kilometre belt conveyer line and the April 5 youth tramcar pit are giving fullest play to their capacity ever since their operation, helping toward the growth of production of the complex.

The complex is producing only in two days what was turned out in the peak year before the liberation (1945).

Cultivation of Taehongdan Integrated Farm Viewed

SK2004152591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Taehongdan County integrated farm is situated in highland of the northern part of Korea 1,200 metres above the sea-level.

The state brought under cultivation this area which had remained a waste land for thousands of years, and founded the farm (July 1952).

Today this area has been turned into a granary and a meat production centre.

1,000 more hectares of land were reclaimed in recent two years, and now 10,000 hectares of land are under cultivation at the farm.

The farm has created 1,200 km-long shelter belts to overcome unfavourable natural climate. Thus average temperature in this area is two or three degrees higher than the previous and favourable to agricultural production.

The grain yield of the farm increased 8 times over that in the first period when the farm was founded.

Level of mechanization on the farm is at a high stage.

The farm has enough harvesters, sowing machines and other up-to-date farming machines.

Every farmer is cultivating land 15 times as much as in the first period.

KCNA Review of 23 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2304054591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports about messages of greetings sent to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from foreign party and state leaders on his birthday.

MINJU CHOSON and PYONGYANG SINMUN carry the full text of the great leader President Kim Il-song's answers to the questions raised by the managing editor of the Japanese newspaper MAINICHI SHIMBUN.

According to NODONG SINMUN, works of President Kim Il-song were reported in foreign countries.

Given in the press is an account of the meeting held to convey thanks of President Kim Il-song to the employees of the Taean heavy machine complex for the production of new-type thermal power equipment.

The April 15 holiday has been celebrated abroad, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN dedicates an article to the 30th anniversary of the publication of the immortal classical work "On the Duty of Educational Workers in the Raising of Children and Young People" by President Kim Il-song at the national conference of active educational workers on April 25, 1961.

NODONG SINMUN carries a story telling that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il called at the Pyongyang weaving machine factory (the then Pyongyang weaving machine workshop) from April to May 1961 and wisely guided the workers to work and live in a revolutionary manner and MINJU CHOSON deals with a story about his wise guidance in the construction of tramway in the capital.

NODONG SINMUN conveys world public voices under the title "Comrade Kim Chong-il Is the Successor to the Revolutionary Cause of Chuche".

The daily editorially calls for bringing the traits of unity between the Army and the people into full play.

It is reported in the press that trial operations are going on successfully in the whole section of tramway in Pyongyang and innovations have been effected in power production.

The press informs the readers that the Chinese art troupe and acrobatic group gave performances in Pyongyang and Chongjin, Korea carried off two gold and three silver medals at the 19th international exhibition of inventions and new technologies and the Korean ambassador to Jamaica paid a courtesy call on the chairman of the Caribbean National Movement.

NODONG SINMUN carries news that Kim Hui-won, former chairman of the South Korean Kangwon Provincial District Committee of the "Reunification Democratic Party" and central permanent member of the "Democratic Liberal Party," went round the West Sea barrage and met with reporters.

An article of the daily deals with the rapid growth of the ranks of the followers of the chuche idea in South Korea.

Fellow countryman Choe Tae-sik came over to the northern half of the country from South Korea, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN carries a press statement published by Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, denouncing the bellicose outburst of the South Korean puppet defence minister threatening to surprise and destroy the "atomic reactor facilities" of the North.

The daily comments on the South Korean puppets' splittist campaign for "admission into the United Nations".

South Korean news of the press includes a report that students in Kwangju attacked a police booth.

Dailies inform the readers that Comrade Fidel Castro in his speech at a central meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the Playa Giron battle declared that Cuba would never make concessions with regard to the principle in socialist construction.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an editorial article on the 121st birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin.

Dailies report that a film reception was hosted by the Soviet Embassy here on the 121st birth anniversary of V.I. Lenin.

It is reported in the press that the Chinese state counciller and foreign minister made clear the China's opinion on the establishment of a new world order and the Chinese Liberation Army daily carried an article titled "Disabled Soldiers Are Respected in Korea".

An article of NODONG SINMUN says that the U.S. imperialists are building up arms and increasing tensions while advertising "peace" and "termination of cold war" and a MINJU CHOSON article stresses that it is a basic condition for peace and security to thwart the U.S. imperialists' nuclear threat.

South Korea

No Sees Amity With USSR as 'Basically Good'

SK2304094291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u defended Tuesday the widely criticized "treaty of good neighborhood, partnership and cooperation" proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last week as "basically good" and a sign that Moscow wants to upgrade bilateral ties.

"The Soviet president expressed understanding about our position concerning all pending issues such as South-North (Korean) dialogue, North Korea's signing of the safeguards accords of the International Atomic Energy Agency and our bid for United Nations membership. He made it certain that we can develop bilateral relations through the establishment of a friendship, cooperation treaty," No told political leaders.

Public outcry against the treaty was misguided, he added.

"We will discuss the content of the treaty later, but it is basically a good thing. The Soviet Union has such treaties with Germany, France, Italy and Spain," No said.

Gorbachev proposed the treaty in his summit talks with No on the Korean island of Cheju on Saturday, and Soviet Spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said No had accepted the proposal.

The South Korean mass media counseled caution, accusing the government of dancing to Moscow's tune.

Apparently mindful of longtime ally the United States, Korean Spokesman Yi Su-chong and Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok made pains to say the treaty was still a subject for study. If signed, it would not contain any clauses with military implications, the minister said Monday.

South Korea and the United States signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in 1953 that took effect the following year. The Soviet Union and North Korea established a "treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance" in 1961.

The meeting, over lunch at Chongwadae, the presidential office, was attended by Speaker Pak Chun-kyu, Chief Justice Kim Tok-chu, Prime Minister No Chae-pong, Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], and Kim Tae-Chung, president of the main opposition New Democratic Union [NDU].

After the meeting, No and NDU head Kim exchanged views on a variety of political issues for about 25 minutes.

No told Kim it was undesirable to loosen the core provisions of the National Security Law as long as North Korea's policy was to unify the nation under communism.

The National Security Law provides the legal ground to punish people who make unauthorized contact with North Korea or are thought to sympathize with communism. The law has long been a source of conflict among politicians, with the NDU calling for a substantial rewriting and the DLP threatening to railroad a minor revision through the National Assembly. No's DLP controls the Korean parliament with 218 of the 299 seats.

The president also expressed opposition to the NDU's call for the Police Neutralization Law, which he is trying to push through the assembly, to provide political parties with the right to recommend members of the police committee.

"It would be undesirable to give such right to political parties if we are to make the police independent from politics," he told Kim.

Kim told No he should quit the DLP to "properly complete your tenure as president."

No snapped back, "That's unrealistic. Politics should be in harmony with reality."

As for the much-ballyhooed switch to a cabinet system, the president said he "personally" liked the system but would not seek a change as the people prefer the presidential system.

Kim Chong-in Interviewed on Cheju Summit Talks

SK2304074491 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Apr 91 p 5

[Interview with Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs, by CHOSON ILBO—place and date not given; first paragraph is editor's note]

[Text] Through the ROK-USSR summit talks on Cheju Island, the two countries are welcoming a new turning point in their economic cooperative relations. Based on the reconfirmed friendship and trust between the two countries, it has been forecast that the tempo for economic cooperation between the two countries will be further accelerated. However, some voices express worry over the hasty expansion of economic cooperation because of the Soviet Union's unstable political and economic situation. Kim Mun-sun, editor-in- chief; Pyon Yong-sik, chief of the economics department; and Kim Kwang-hyon, reporter for the economics department, met with Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs, who played a leading role in carrying out the policy of economic cooperation with the Soviet Union, and talked about the direction of the ROK-USSR economic cooperation after the Cheju summit talks.

[CHOSON ILBO] In the summit talks, what economic topics were discussed?

[Kim Chong-in] No new issues of special interest were discussed, but the current ongoing economic cooperation was discussed. Also, possible long-range methods for further developing the economic cooperation were discussed. Especially, as the first symbolic model for economic cooperation between the two countries, we both agreed to give priority to promoting the development of Sakhalin's natural gas. As a result of prior investigation, it was concluded that the development of Sakhalin's natural gas is economical and that it is possible to carry out joint development with a third country. According to the second resource investigation team surveying its validity, Sakhalin's gas field is the most promising, and next is the Udukan [as transliterated] copper mine. It was difficult to pursue the development of the Udukan copper mine because Japan was closely involved, but this time the Lucky Goldstar Group actively adhered to this project.

[CHOSON ILBO] What was the Soviet side's attitude regarding the economic cooperation?

[Kim] They showed a lot of interest. However, we indicated that there were many difficulties due to the ineffective bureaucratic system within the Soviet Union. We requested that President Gorbachev personally deal with this matter so that economic cooperation between the two countries can be carried out actively. In his dinner speech, President Gorbachev said that the relations of economic cooperation with the ROK are a model for the Soviet Union's foreign economic cooperation and that he thanks the ROK for its cooperation. He said that because the ROK and the USSR have many reciprocally complementary aspects, he emphasized that both countries should closely cooperate and show a true model of economic cooperation. Because our country is equipped with a large-scale production system and because the Soviet Union has an enormous capacity for import ordering, both countries are mutually complementary.

In the summit talk, President Gorbachev ordered his minister of foreign economic relations on-the-spot to "make efforts in the direction of actively expanding trade." In the meeting between the ROK-USSR trade ministers, the Soviet minister of foreign economic relations said: "When we return to Moscow, there will be some kind of order from President Gorbachev regarding the progress and methods for expanding the ROK-USSR economic cooperation." Isn't the fact that the president wants to receive the report personally a matter of great significance? Gorbachev was disappointed in Japan. However it seems that he was confident that cooperation can be achieved with the ROK.

[CHOSON ILBO] What was decided regarding the unresolved pending issues between the two countries, such as the fisheries agreement and technological cooperation?

[Kim] In the case of the fisheries agreement, we were promised that this issue would be resolved as soon as he returns home. Especially, the Soviet side was very interested in transferring the Soviet Union's technology and using it. Also, President Gorbachev greatly emphasized this matter and expressed positive interest in it. In order to commercialize its developed science and technology, the Soviet Union on many occasions emphasized the need to carry out joint research, joint production, and joint selling between the two countries. Currently the level of technological cooperation between the two countries amounts to 48 projects. Specific discussions to develop these projects according to each field will be held sometime in May between the ministers of science and technology.

[CHOSON ILBO] Of technologies put forward by the Soviet Union, how many technologies can be put into commercial use?

[Kim] Of 48 technologies, 38 can be immediately put into practical use. For example, technology on materials for aircraft brakes and technology for coating diamonds can be put into practical use immediately. Doubting the practical use of such technology is hasty on the part of the people. The possibility of commercial use of Soviet science and technology is indeed endless. I think we should have, above all, the idea of applying and developing Soviet technology. There is an example that Soviet technicians, joining some American firms, have successfully carried out one or two projects already. It was the first attempt for comprehensive and full-scale commercial use of their technologies. Since there is an overabundance of technicians in the Soviet Union, we intend to invite them to join our enterprises.

[CHOSON ILBO] The government and enterprises of the ROK are anxious to advance economically into the Soviet Union. However, American experts on Soviet affairs, who are known to have abundant information on the Soviet Union, put forward a theory calling for cautious investment in the Soviet Union. Dr. Kissinger even warned that since the Soviet economic system is in a state of collapse, enterprises should restrain from investing in the Soviet Union. Besides, U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney affirms Gorbachev's downfall. (Bergstein), director of U.S. International Economic Research Institute, and former U.S. President Nixon also made similar remarks.

[Kim] It is true that the United States has a great deal of information about the Soviet Union. However, views expressed by a certain individual are not always right. To make a prediction is very difficult. When the price of oil showed a big drop in 1983, Dr. Kissinger made an erroneous prediction that the oil price would go up to $35 a barrel by 1985. I think the value of investment is an issue which should be left to the judgment of investing enterprises themselves. At present, American businessmen are carrying out various economic activities in the Soviet Union.

[CHONSON ILBO] Experts in the West consider that because the Soviet Union has not turned its economy into a market economy system, still being attached to a socialist system, its economy is being further aggravated.

Will our economic cooperation funds, which amount to $3 billion, be properly managed and collected after being put into the Soviet economy, which is described as "a great sinking boat"?

[Kim] One may be concerned with the issue of collecting loans to the Soviet Union. However, if one puts into account the Soviet potential and inevitability of reform for the survival of the Soviet state, one need not be worried.

Some people say that the Soviet Union did not turn its economy into a market system at a single stroke. However, we should realize that the Soviet Union has a certain limit to implementing such drastic reform as that in Poland. It is true that there is a political trend of returning to conservatism. However, the Soviet people themselves are keenly aware of the inevitability of economic reform for their survival.

[CHOSON ILBO] Some people point out the possibility of the Soviet Union's adopting a dictatorial development system [kaebal tokjae chejae] just as we did in the sixties.

[Kim] Yes, there is the possibility. Economic development was possible in the ROK because political stability was maintained in the sixties. However, the Soviet Union is not politically stable. If the Soviet Union returns to conservatism, its funds will be operated within the scope of those foreign currencies in its possession, and we need not be concerned with our economic cooperation funds. Because of the tremendous aftershock should the Soviet economy collapse, the Western nations will not unconditionally leave it to collapse.

There is a possibility of forming a cooperative body among Western countries for normalization of the Soviet economy. At present, more than 2,500 Western enterprises are active in the Soviet Union.

[CHOSON ILBO] Former U.S. President Nixon, who recently visited the Soviet Union for two weeks, concluded that since the base of power of the Soviet politicians is moving away from the central government to local governments, the United States should pay attention to such figures as Yeltsin. Did we secure any channel for negotiations with local governments in the Soviet Union?

[Kim] I think that $3 billion economic loans were negotiated independently by the central government but future projects for resources development should be borne cooperatively between the central and local governments. The might of the central government which has the right to use foreign currencies is much stronger than that of local governments. Even if such Soviet republics such as Lithuania separate, economic ties with the central government cannot be severed. Just as Yeltsin came to meet President No Tae-u when he visited the Soviet Union in December last year, we will meet local Soviet Government officials.

[CHONSON ILBO] What is your opinion of the political significance of ROK-USSR economic cooperation?

[Kim] ROK-USSR economic cooperation has not moved ahead merely for the sake of economic interests. The issue of economic cooperation was raised in the middle of the course of normalizing overall relations with the Soviet Union. Even if we suffer slight economic losses in ROK-USSR economic cooperation, this cooperation would be valuable should we find any other favorable factors. When I met the president of the Federation of German Industries, he told me that "before reunification, our businessmen claimed that there is no need to push for reunification by undertaking enormous burdens. But they come to the unanimous conclusion that if there was no such courageous decision, reunification was not possible." He then appraised the "establishment of ROK-USSR diplomatic relations" as a "courageous decision."

[CHOSON ILBO] Some people point out that, in view of the trend of the international political situation, establishment of ROK-USSR diplomatic relations was possible even without loans for economic cooperation. Was the offering of $3 billion in loans a precondition for establishing diplomatic relations?

[Kim] Our approach to the Soviet Union was not possible without economic cooperation. When the ROK-USSR summit was held in San Francisco, high-ranking U.S. Government officials told us that without economic cooperation, talks would not be realized. The Soviet Union insisted on economic cooperation first and diplomatic relations next. Later, it changed its policy.

With the idea that once diplomatic relations are established, economic cooperation is not necessary, one cannot develop diplomatic relations with others. I think Gorbachev's proposal for concluding a treaty for good-neighborly relations and friendship at the recent ROK-USSR summit is an affirmative result of economic cooperation. Since Japan linked the issue of restoring four northern islands with economic cooperation, Japan's position has become less advantageous. Japanese businessmen are full of complaints about their government's inactivity in economic cooperation.

[CHOSON ILBO] When Chinese President Yang Shangkun met with high-ranking officials of the U.S. State Department in Washington, he revealed that Chinese and Soviet influence over North Korea is limited. What degree of influence will ROK-USSR economic cooperation exercise on North Korea?

[Kim] Since the ROK-USSR San Francisco summit was held, North-South relations have changed a great deal. North-South prime ministers' talks were possible since the San Francisco summit. Gorbachev, who has not visited North Korea even once, met with President No twice and even came to Cheju Island. This caused a change in North-South relations. Since the situation around it is changing, North Korea has to change. In the event the Soviet Union advises North Korea to "trade with the ROK, just as with the Soviet Union, and to open its doors," North Korea cannot indefinitely refuse to listen.

[CHOSON ILBO] With the exception of West Germany, the ROK is the only nation to offer such a large loan to the Soviet Union. Thus, our nation is internationally known as a "generous donor." Is there a possibility for China to ask for something when we establish diplomatic relations with China?

[Kim] China could have been much closer to the ROK than the Soviet Union. But China was not fully prepared, and thus failed to respond to us. This was the difference between China and the Soviet Union.

Kim Chong-il Said To Postpone China Visit

SK2304085591 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 91 p 2

[Tokyo—YONHAP]

[Text] The Japanese daily MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported on 23 April that Kim Chong-il, secretary of North

Korea's Workers Party of Korea, has apparently postponed his visit to China, believed to be scheduled toward the end of this month, until May.

The daily said that Kim Chong-il has postponed his visit to China because Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to the ROK threw the situation into a state of flux and gave rise to the issue of the ROK's unilateral admission into the United Nations. He also postponed his visit because Chinese Premier Li Peng was expected to visit Pyongyang early next month.

Delegation Flies to Beijing Ministers' Meeting

SK2204053791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0518 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Beijing, April 22 (YONHAP)—A seven-member South Korean delegation will fly into Beijing Monday afternoon to attend the 12th Asian and Pacific labor ministers' meeting set for April 23-26.

The Korean team was led by Chong Tong-u, vice labor minister.

Host China has delayed holding the meeting for two years citing the pro-democracy movement on Tiananmen Square and outlays.

Departing from an established international practice, delegates from some 30 countries are coming here for the meeting on condition that they pay their way.

Former TASS Correspondent Writes on DPRK

SK2204012591 Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Mar 91 pp 408-433

["Exclusive" article by Aleksandr Chebin, former TASS correspondent in Pyongyang: "North Korea: Nation Where Only Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il Exist"]

[Text] "Big Brother" is watching you. This passage from George Orwell's "1984" ran through my mind incessantly like the flashing light on a police car during the seven-odd years I spent in North Korea. Kim Il-song was the "big brother" whose presence was felt throughout the country. In the plazas of the cities, on partitions in restaurants, on the cold marble walls of large auditoriums, on the walls of the small rooms which most Korean use to live, sleep, cook and do laundry in, and in pleasure boat cabins and hotel rooms, Kim Il-song is there, staring down at the people.

Fortunately, due to problems in technology, the "respected and beloved leader" is unable to thoroughly monitor and supervise the lives of the people to the extent that the dictator in Orwell's novel was. However, the North Korean Government appears to be attempting to overcome this "shortcoming" by doubling and tripling the number of Kim Il-song portraits hanging throughout the country. In the beginning of the 1980's, a finely modified picture of the officially proclaimed "successor" Kim Chong-il was added to the portrait of Kim Il-song which it is mandatory for all North Korean citizens to possess. Since then, pictures of the "great leader" and the "dear leader" posing together have been hung throughout the country.

Just what constitutes a fatherland? Most people's answer would certainly begin with a mosaic of fragmentary parts, including the house in which they grew up, their hometown, relatives and acquaintances, school, friends, etc. In North Korea, however, the fatherland and surrounding world to babies who barely have learned to walk begins with a large-scale mock-up of Mangyongdae. These mock-ups are the most important educational aid in all of North Korea's kindergartens, from Pyongyang to the most remote regions of the country.

One day, at the kindergarten of the Sinhung Agricultural Cooperative below Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province, I saw the model of Mangyongdae in the first room I stepped into. Surrounding this elaborately made two-by-two-meter model were approximately twenty small chairs. The chairs were probably there because listening to the teacher tell stories for protracted periods of time and viewing the location where the "fatherly leader" played, learned, and conceptualized the future during his youth was beyond the capacity of these young preschoolers with their weak little legs.

On the walls of the room were pictures showing various mythical scenes which depicted the childhood of the other "leader." In one picture, beneath a scene of the leader shooting a gun toward the Japanese police, a caption reads, "Our future father-marshal fighting with the enemy."

The teaching of Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's childhood and adolescence is a major topic of North Korea's preschool education. The preschool education law adopted in 1976, in addition to being designed to enable the additional labor force of women to be used in economic activities, made it mandatory for all of North Korea's children to be sent to nurseries and kindergartens. This law was drafted in accordance with the monumental goal of implanting into a younger generation an education which raises "chuche-oriented revolutionary communists" prepared to "share their destiny to the bitter end" together with the leader and the "party center" (the name by which Kim Chong-il is called in North Korea), within a feeling of "unlimited loyalty" to the older and younger Kims.

This education continues throughout the entire life of North Korean citizens. In middle school, the "revolutionary actions" of the "fatherly leader" and the "dear leader" are taught using specially developed textbooks. In upper technical school, this subject is taught at a higher theoretical level. After becoming adults, this training is implanted through the party political training system attended after the work day.

Citizens cannot even escape this absolute brainwashing machinery when they are alone. Whether they turn on the radio or television or open a newspaper or book, people are exposed to stories about the concerns the two leaders have for the people, or about their "noble character" and numerous "immortal exploits." Of course, modifiers are always affixed such as "great sun," "tactical hero," "unparalleled nationalist who was the first in our thousands of years of Korean history to stand up [to outside influence]," and "most great personage."

North Korea's Celebration, Kim Il-song's Birthday

North Korean authorities have officially proclaimed April 15th, Kim Il-song's birthday, and the 16th as holidays. On Kim's birthday, national flags are raised in both urban and rural areas. On the streets and in plazas, there are badges with words such as "We pray for the health and longevity of the great leader," "Long live the respected and beloved leader of the party and the nation Comrade Kim Il-song," as well as enormous exhibits commemorating the event. The hundreds of bronze statues of Kim Il-song throughout the country are covered with donated flowers, while flower beds installed along Pyongyang's major thoroughfares are planted with live flowers.

On 14 and 15 April, throngs of people line up at the 30-meter-high bronze statue of Kim Il-song erected at Mansusan in the middle of Pyongyang. Around the statue are hundreds of flower baskets, vases, and bouquets. People bring lemons, oranges, and blossoming fruit trees in tree planters. Red ribbons are placed on the flower baskets, inscribed with the words "To the health and longevity of the leader." These flowers come from the Worker's Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, various offices within the central government, social organizations, enterprises, and families of anti-Japanese fighters.

During the same period, the large plaza in front of the Korean Revolutionary Museum, which has a bronze statue of Kim Il-song in front of it as well, is filled with extremely bright searchlights and crowds of people. Special police in civilian clothes direct the winding lines toward the lower portion of the wide stairs leading to the plaza surrounding the statue. In front of the statue, the people form several lines, pray for the health and longevity of the "respected and beloved leader," pay homage to the statue, and head down along the side stairs. New crowds endlessly file in behind them.

The people who come to the statue in official-use Mercedes, however, have a much shorter and quicker road to the statue of Kim Il-song, the "living god." These cars are parked in a plaza to the left of the statue. A car with Central Committee plates on it is greeted by a Korean People's Army [KPA] captain, as a general accompanied by his young wife alight. A father accompanied by his son and daughter-in-law also arrives.

April 15 is Kim Il-song's birthday and February 16 is Kim Chong-il's birthday. Each year from January to April, the preparation and execution of these two celebrations becomes the major agenda of all sociopolitical activity in North Korea. During this period, industrial companies are established, film festival exhibitions and arts competitions are held, and Kim Il-song's Collective Works and the tear-jerking memoirs of old war veterans concerning Kim Il-song's fatherly concern and good deeds for the country are published.

One of the policies to commemorate the birthday of Kim Il-song is to have North Koreans and foreign delegations visit such sights as Mangyongdae—the "birthplace of revolution" and "the spiritual home of the peoples of the world"—and other locations throughout the country where vestiges of Kim Il-song's great revolutionary exploits are preserved.

North Korea media reports that during five years, from 1982 to 1987, 70 foreign heads of state as well as delegations totalling over 2500 individuals from some 150 countries of five continents visited Mangyongdae. Nearly half of North Korea's population—over 10 million—visited the Chuche Ideology Monument and the Arch of Triumph which were erected to commemorate Kim Il-song's 70th birthday. Among those visitors were some 134,000 foreigners, according to these reports. Additionally, North Korea propagandizes that during the one-year period of 1989 alone, 2 million people visited Mangyongdae, including 32,000 foreigners.

Visiting Mangyongdae and other revolutionary historical sites is one of the mandatory requirements for North Korean citizens. It would be naive to think, however, that the state pays these expenses. In spite of this, being allowed to travel to one of these sites during the normal vacation period—a short twelve days annually—while furthermore having to incur travel expenses, is considered one of the highest "honors" by North Koreans. Of course, all of this is organized and done by groups. It is impossible for North Koreans to travel alone or even with their families to the "capital of revolution," Pyongyang, or to their own wishes. To visit these places, one needs special permission from the on-site authorities: Without such permission, one cannot even get a bus or train ticket.

The Partisan Trees

Even at resort areas such as Mt. Kumgang or Mt. Myohyang, North Korean citizens are once again reminded of the "omnipresence of the leader and the unparalleled resources of the KWP's Propaganda Department." The Propaganda Department has devised a way to further inculcate the people with revolutionary education and an understanding of the greatness of the leader even while they are enjoying nature at one of North Korea's resort areas. The result is that these exquisitely scenic mountains, famous even to foreigners, have been considerably defaced by slogans praising Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il inscribed in large letters on the rocks.

The engraving of these epitaphs was begun in the early 1970's to convey to future generations the immortal exploits of Kim Il-song in a project, according to North Korean media, personally led by Kim Chong-il. Presently, however, Kim Chong-il's name is inscribed on more and more rocks.

Absolute backers of North Korea's ideology, probably dissatisfied with the ability of the monumental creations made during the two leaders' lives to pass on to the North Korean citizens and on to the whole world their greatness and genius, searched for more permanent evidence to pass on. The tool they found in 1987 to do this were the old tree stumps at Mt. Paektu, inscribed with phrases praising Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and Kim Il-song's first wife and mother of Kim Chong-il, the "female general of Mt. Paektu," Kim Chong-suk. These passages were inscribed on the trees by anti-Japanese partisans after stripping off the bark. According to the propaganda of the North Korean authorities, the Japanese police had laid an elaborate surveillance net across the entire Korean peninsula at the time. These trees were engraved, claims North Korea, while Japanese Army units incessantly attacked the partisans.

The discovery of these tree trunks was regarded as quite an incident in North Korean society. Around 1990, these tree stumps began appearing in places throughout the country, from Mt. Paektu in the north to the Military Demarcation Line in the south, from the West Sea to the East Sea coasts. By the time of Kim Il-song's birthday in mid-April 1990, already 11,650 such tree stumps had been discovered. Among these, over 1,690 were engraved with praises of the greatness of Kim Il-song, including the phrases, "Let us give a golden throne with pearl legs and eternally revere General Kim Il-song who, after winning independence, was the savior of the nation." "Let us call the extraordinary hero of the fatherland independence struggle General Kim Il-song to the rostrum of victory following independence and go even to the ends of the earth for him." The first slogans discovered in the summer of 1987 naturally were about Kim Il-song. As time went on, however, a series of slogans about Kim Chong-il and Kim Chong-suk began to be discovered. This was, of course, to be expected. In February 1990 at the time of the birthday of the "dear leader," there were over 200 stumps inscribed with slogans dedicated to Kim Chong-il. Accordingly, after his birthday in 1990, the citizens began to call the son of Kim Il-song "shining star," "great person," and "genius."

KCNA reported that some of these slogans call the birth of Kim Chong-il a "historic event," while others praise the "appearance of the great lodestar," the "enormous joy of Choson," and the "celebration of the nation." Among those is one slogan which states, "Oh, Choson. We bring to you news of the appearance of the star of Paektu (this is frequently what Kim Chong-il is called among North Korea's current mythological community). Long live the star of Paektu, the Red star who lights the countryside of 3,000 li."

According to the slogans inscribed on the tree trunks, the issue of Kim Il-song's successor was already decided even before the "future successor" was crawling about on the floor. For example, this can be seen in slogans such as, "A bright star has risen, and Choson is being glorified under his great name." "The future of Choson is bright, and above Choson the bright star of Paektu is shining." "We will eternally revere the bright star of Paektu."

There have been dozens of movies and documentaries which have been produced which praise the actions of Kim Il-song in the time period around independence. When Kim was 78 years old, a documentary entitled "Origins of Health and Long Life" appeared. This work depicted the "crystalline loyalty of the Choson citizens for the great leader." North Korea's controlled media gave the following review of the movie: "The picture impressively shows that the people of Choson fervently hope for the health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who founded the people's paradise on earth in this land." In the picture, farmers and administrators of the farm cooperatives who have reaped abundant harvests as well, as scientists and laborers who have performed meritorious deeds in the establishment of socialism, emerge and are shown working to relieve the workload of Comrade Kim Il-song who is devoting all of his energies to solving the food, clothing, and housing problems of the country.

Movies and Literature Praising the Leader

In addition to the special movie week held throughout the country, movie exhibitions are organized in celebration of Kim Il-song's birthday. Among those, the Central Movie Exhibition held in Pyongyang is hosted by either a KWP Central Committee Secretariat member or another high-ranking leader. At the exhibition held on 15 April 1990, the movies shown were "The Extreme Respect and Reverence of the Choson People and the Entire World's Revolutionary Peoples for the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "The Positive Support of Foreign Comrades for the Revolutionary Work of the Choson People."

To commemorate the joyous "April celebration," the Republic Arts and Entertainment System composed of primary school students is held. The 2600-plus Children's Union members and primary school students who attended the 1990 exhibition expressed their limitless gratitude in song, dance, and novels for the respected and beloved leader who always leads them toward the path to victory and glory while protecting them with endless love and attention. The KWP organ "NODONG SINMUN" selected the musical "While Visiting Mangyongdae" as the outstanding work of the festival. This musical concerns the joy people experience while visiting their home in Mangyongdae. As in other competitions, the selection of winners is based on Kim Chong-il's appraisal.

Literature also serves as a powerful weapon in the creation of the Kim Il-song cult of personality. The major topic for North Korean writers and poets is the writing of songs praising the meritorious deeds of North Korea's leaders. The basic energies of North Korea's active writers for this topic are concentrated in the 15 April Literary Creation Office. As seen in its very name, which is taken from Kim Il-song's birthday, this office works to develop a series of novels which artistically depict Kim Il-song's actions around the time period of 1945. Fifteen of 17 novels depicting the period prior to liberation entitled "Immortal History" have already been published.

World Arts Festival "April Spring"

The zenith of arts programs in celebration of Kim Il-song's birthday is "April Spring," a world arts festival which has been held since 1982. Entertainers and artists from over 60 countries attended the festival in 1989. KCNA reported that at this festival, "the great leader's glorious revolutionary history and exploits, his great devotion to the revolution in Korea [Choson] and throughout the world, the people's as well as the world entertainers' fervent veneration of the leader, and their appraisal of the greatness of the party and Kim Chong-il were well expressed."

Although it has been some time since North Korea ceased repaying its debts to virtually all Western countries to whom they owed money, North Korean authorities are unconcerned that the organization and conducting of an arts festival of this order consumes an extraordinary amount of hard currency. One Peruvian performer who had produced two simple songs entitled "The Glory of Kim Il-song" and "The Glory of Kim Chong-il" told me: "The hosts of the arts festival paid for both the airline ticket and an honorarium of $5,000 per person for the entire Peruvian arts team composed of six persons." Hotel, food, and transportation are free to all participants in the arts festival. Beginning in 1989, authorities have been giving $1,000 to the recipient of the Best Performer Award. The artists and performers who participate in this arts festival from Western countries are not those of particularly high international acclaim.

During the performer's stay in North Korea, visits to places related to the activities of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, as well as "exhibition-use" economic works such as the West Sea dike are required tours. Afterward, North Korean reporters request interviews with the performers and ask them to discuss their admiration for what they saw during their visit, particularly concerning the wise leadership of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. Several of the arts festival participants told me that the North Korean reporters bring a series of skillfully pre-prepared interviews, asking the interviewees merely to sign their names. An honorarium in U.S. dollars was paid to the signers.

The North Korean leadership works very hard at attracting as much international influence as possible to the Kim Il-song birthday celebration. This was actively pursued in 1987 on Kim's 75th birthday. Heads of state from Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Guinea; prime ministers from Zambia and Ghana; and delegations and special envoys from Cuba, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Botswana, India, Benin, Libya, Egypt, Pakistan, Iran, Norway, Finland, Switzerland, and other countries all came to Korea to attend the birthday celebrations. There were numerous gifts, congratulatory greetings, and awards handed out, including the USSR's Order of Lenin. On the day following Kim's birthday, North Korean newspapers revealed that during his life, Kim Il-song has received over sixty of the highest possible awards from 50 countries and international groups, and a total of 43,000 gifts from 150 states throughout the world. The more prominent of these awards are displayed at the People's Friendship Museum erected at Myohyangsan. Within this large building, the "Zil" (Soviet-made) automobiles given to Kim Il-song as gifts from Stalin and Malenkov are still on display. Among the other items on display are extremely expensive valuables and authentic art works, as well as simple gifts such as wine and vodka from ordinary citizens.

Also, next to this building is a separate, smaller building which holds the gifts received by Kim Chong-il. Visitors to this museum are greeted by a large statue of the "Party Center" sitting on a chair in the entrance way. Other than that, General Kim Chong-il's museum is less pretentious than his father's.

The most "outspoken" newspaper in praise of the leader of North Korea and his successor is NODONG CHONGYON. This newspaper dedicates many pages to comparing the creation of chuche ideology by Kim Il-song and the benefits North Korean citizens and all of humanity have obtained from this ideology to the exploits of both Prometheus, who gave fire to humans, and of Archimedes, who stated: "Give me a lever and fulcrum and I will move the earth." NODONG CHONGYON writes: "Today, President Kim Il-song provided us with that lever and fulcrum. The lever is chuche ideology, and the fulcrum is the popular masses."

There was also a comparison to Copernicus. Just as all the planets revolve around the sun according to the discovery of Copernicus, today tens-of-millions of the world's progressive people look toward Pyongyang where the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is working.

North Korea's leadership expends a massive amount of funds on trips to North Korea by chuche ideology research circle organizations and supporters, on foreign language publication of Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's works and propaganda documents by special publishing houses, and on international conferences and seminars on chuche ideology. The entire content of the conference proceedings, as well as comments by the participants, are widely carried in all North Korea's newspapers. Thus, the citizens can be confident that chuche ideology "is being spread throughout the five continents of the world with even more vigor."

Organization of Chuche Ideology Circles in Countries Throughout the World

According to North Korean newspapers, in South Korea alone there were over 5000 circles formed during the 1980's to research and propagate the chuche ideology. Each day on the first page of every newspaper as a regular feature, a handful of South Korean Kim's, Yi's, or Pak's are "eagerly awaiting the day when they can live happily alongside Commander Kim Il-song," affirming to the people of North Korea "South Korea's response to the glorious realities in North Korea" concerning the actions of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

KCNA reported in early 1990, "The thousands of circles organized within almost all higher educational institutions in South Korea as well as the many groups formed among workers, teachers, and religious personalities are actively working to heighten awareness of chuche ideology." KCNA, quoting official documents which came out of Seoul, wrote that over 200,000 students in some 5,310 circles at South Korean universities are engaged in research on chuche ideology. Accordingly, within North Korea it is thought that, "Thanks to the extensive research and circulation of chuche ideology, anti-American and independence struggles of the South Korean people are undergoing many changes."

According to a North Korean announcement, during the past ten years the propagation and research of the chuche ideology rapidly proliferated throughout the whole world.

The first chuche ideology research group established overseas was formed on 15 April 1969 in Mali. Afterwards, as these groups began to spring up in other countries, groups began to appear at the national, regional, and even international level. Currently there are over 100 quasi-groups in over 80 countries. In 1978, an international research institute of chuche ideology was formed, and afterwards regional research institutes emerged in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. In 1988 alone, over 1,900 chuche ideology seminars, lectures, and classes were held in over 80 countries. This includes two international conferences and nearly 20 nation-wide seminars. On Kim Il-song's 76th birthday in 1988, there were 82 missions and eight international groups from 65 countries who attended the conference held in Athens.

The international research institute of chuche ideology publishes the "Paekbong Collection" and the magazine CHUCHE IDEOLOGY RESEARCH in several different languages and distributes them to over 130 countries. They also publish the works of other groups involved in chuche ideology research such as the magazine ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE and similar publications which are "widely circulated among the masses."

As North Korea entered the 1980's, the research and circulation of Kim Chong-il's "works" became an important task among "chuche followers." KCNA reported that the number of works by Kim Chong-il reached the 100 mark in early 1987. In the short time since, over 50 new works have been announced. These have been published in languages such as English, French, Spanish, and Russian. The current focus of attention is research on Kim Chong-il's book, ON CHUCHE IDEOLOGY, the "immortal masterpiece" in which the foundation of chuche ideology is "thoroughly illuminated." KCNA reported that this work, "is an immortal textbook which carries great significance for mankind's spiritual and ideological life. Our people and the revolutionary peoples of the world researched this book, the fourth edition, before anything else." Since this book was announced in 1987, there have been 3,200 seminars, lectures, public discussions, and other such activities.

"Chuche Ideology Is the Zenith of Human Thought"

How can we explain the determined and, at times, inexplicably obstinate will and determination of the North Korean leadership in attempting to "bestow to all humanity the benefits" of chuche ideology? It seems that the problem probably stems from the logic and ideology of those within the regime who pursue the goal of chuche becoming the "zenith of human thought." This is because no matter how well the North Korean regime today packages itself in flourishing rhetoric, in the end the regime is tantamount to an absolute monarchy. Additionally, while most monarchies are satisfied with relatively limited controls, even if applied universally, on its citizens, North Korea has officially established as its goal the transformation of North Korean members of society into "chuche ideology-oriented revolutionary communists" who act and think "only in accordance with the demands of chuche ideology."

As a result of this pursuit of absolute truth, the possibility is excluded of any other political power or ideology coexisting within the system outside of that which has been determined to be "singularly correct." This is why Kim Il-sung demands, "The infiltration of all ideologies not suitable for our party must be blocked," while Kim Chong-il proclaims, "There can be no position for any ideology which is not included in the leader's ideology." To block the infiltration of "unfamiliar ideologies," North Korea established a totalitarian regime which controls the inflow of all information on domestic and international life to its citizens. Nowhere on this planet in any country has there been a regime such as this.

The first thing that strikes visitors to Pyongyang is the order and cleanliness of the streets. After a few days have passed, however, the visitor becomes awakened to the fact that this country is totally isolated from the world and all matters going on around it. Even during rush hour, as people head to work or return home, nowhere can people be seen either reading or even carrying newspapers or magazines, either at the bus stops or in automobiles.

Even foreigners well acquainted with Pyongyang are only able to find places to buy newspapers after having wandered around the city for some time. Most of these places are tucked away in upstairs rooms of unattractive houses with uncleaned windows. There are no signs nor hours of operation. There is absolutely nothing in these small rooms, which are less than one square meter in size. The only time one would know that this was a newspaper store was for 20 to 30 minutes in the morning when it sells several dozen copies of the "NODONG SINMUN" and the "PYONGYANG SINMUN." Among the periodicals printed in North Korea, only these two newspapers are sold retail. Even that is true only in Pyongyang. Newspaper stands themselves exist only in Pyongyang.

One Media Per Household Subscription Rule

A person who works at the Publications Guidance General Management Bureau confirmed to me the fact that all other newspapers and magazines are not sold retail in North Korea. This bureau controls all publishing activities in North Korea, directing all publishing and distribution of printed materials. As of 1989, 16 newspapers and around 60 varieties of magazines amounting to approximately 3 million copies are printed according to this person. All citizens can receive one of those if they request it, but the distribution of these publications is dictated by the directives of Kim Il-song, which state that all families must mandatorily subscribe to either one newspaper or one magazine. Unless the head of the family relinquishes his rights to one of the other family members, the publication received usually reflects the profession of the family head. If, for example the husband is a reporter and his wife an artist, it is impossible for them to receive two periodicals which would be of interest to each of them. One person must go to the library to read the magazine or newspaper which they need.

The address at which North Koreans receive their regular periodicals and other mail includes the city, district, area name and the number of the people's group, in other words the "people's neighborhood unit". All correspondence first goes through the head of the people's neighborhood unit.

Since the circulation is limited, not all people can order the newspaper or magazine which they desire. In particular, the "PYONGYANG SINMUN" is a popular newspaper because this paper announces the radio and television programming. However, the circulation of the PYONGYANG SINMUN is limited, and it is only available to residents of Pyongyang.

There are also copies of NODONG SINMUN stacked at newspaper stands along the streets of Pyongyang. The number of these stands is less than ten throughout the whole city of Pyongyang, including those at the train station and central post office. However, without exception these newspapers are missing the page entitled overseas news, conveniently "forgotten."

Newspapers and magazines from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are not available through retail sale in North Korea either. Even individual requests are impossible. Foreign periodicals and documents only go to the Study Palace in Pyongyang as well as to a series of offices. People who do not have some type of connection with a secret agency must wait around two months to receive a visitor's pass to the Study Palace.

I asked an employee of the Study Palace to show me copies of Soviet newspapers and magazines. I was led to the top floor of the building. A sign was hung on the door which read "secret storage department." Almost all major Soviet newspapers and social, political, and literary journals were listed in the card catalogue. I asked to see the most current editions of PRAVDA and OGONEK. The newspaper was one month old, and the magazine was five months old. "That is correct," answered a girl working at the storage department. "These are the most recent issues we have received. The remaining editions have not come in yet from the offices concerned."

Most Publications Are Works of the Two Kims

Overseas periodicals do not leave the city limits of Pyongyang through official channels. North Korean citizens with the exception of those within the WPK Central Committee and some of the offices of the North Korean Foreign Ministry are thus completely deprived of a chance to receive and view any type of foreign periodical including those that come from socialist countries. It therefore comes as no surprise that North Korean students stare in curiosity at the Soviet newspapers which Soviet instructors at higher institutions of education in Pyongyang bring to class.

An average of 170 million total books and pamphlets of 8,000 different titles come out in North Korea annually. Ranked first among these are the works of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, of which 20 million copies of 140 titles are published each year. Also published are 3 million copies of 600 titles related to sociopolitics; 5 million copies of 1,000 titles related to technology; and 5,000 copies of 500 titles of children's books. In the intellectual field, around 2 million copies of 300 titles of foreign books are translated, including books in the field of art.

This leaves 130 million out of 170 million books unaccounted for. These 130 million include textbooks for college and higher educational institutes as well as for the party political study system. Within this category fall the numerous books where the works of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il are recorded.

All bookstores in North Korea are filled with the works of the two Kims as well as books explaining and interpreting their works. Currently, there are 36 volumes of Kim Il-song's Collected Works with seven volumes of explanatory notes. Kim Chong-il's Collected Works total five volumes with three volumes of explanatory notes. Both Kims' works are also published as single volumes.

The five volumes of "Kim Chong-il's Collected Works," like so many of his single-volume works, are prohibited from sale to foreigners. One employee of a book store in Kaesong showed me the five-volume collection of Kim Chong-il; however, as soon as I brought out some money she snatched the books away from me saying that they were not for sale. The same situation occurred when I tried to buy the "WPK Program".

Although North Korean representatives insist that there is no prohibition on the purchase of books at general bookstores by foreigners in North Korea, at the same time they strongly recommend that foreigners purchase books at the special bookstores in Pyongyang designed for foreigners. These book stores are stacked with carefully scrutinized and selected books for sale to foreigners. One reason is because the other works by Kim Il-song and particularly Kim Chong-il are filled with blatantly extremist ultranationalist theses as well as the fact that North Korea's unification plan does not call for the "peaceful unification of the fatherland" as publicly propagandized, but rather the "liberation of our southern compatriots."

On the covers of the numerous published materials which general bookstores and library book distribution sections receive, the caveats "domestic-use," "party-use," and "military-use" are stamped. Within these texts, which foreigners are not permitted to approach, domestic and foreign policy issues which are hidden from foreigners are presented, as well as explanations of the genuine meaning of orders issued by Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il.

Complete Blockage of Foreign Information

In one text, classroom materials discussing the need for the establishment of a people's regime in South Korea are provided. In there, references to the need to overthrow the South Korean Government are made, as well as a passage stating that the South Korean people "hope to live under the proper leadership of Kim Il- song." It also says that the North Korean people, "must be fully prepared for the day of reunification."

In "The Immortal Revolutionary Exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-il," published in 1987 and stamped "domestic-use" on the jacket cover, it states, "The Dear Leader indicated that it is necessary for us to maintain the perspective that we must carry out a revolutionary war with our own strength for the unification of our fatherland." Also, the same book mentions, "We must continuously crack down on our fantasies concerning the enemy as well as on our peaceful atmosphere."

Other extremely important tools in providing ideological education for the citizens as well as in raising their allegiance to Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il are radio and television. Broadcasts dedicated to North Korean leadership occupy the most important chunk of programming. While the operations of Pyongyang's central television and radio are well known to foreigners, the activities of the radio and television committees in the provinces are still outside of foreigners' purview.

When I visited North Korea's second city, Hamhung, I visited the South Hamgyong Province Regional Radio Committee. I received permission to meet with the radio station chief, Han Tong-man, who proudly noted, "With the Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il deciding our course of actions, our radio committee is successfully carrying out its duties. The basic duty of those in charge of ideology is in training party members and workers to be genuine revolutionary communists as well as in transforming all of society into a foundation of chuche ideology. Based on this, our first priority is to propagandize the greatness of our Leader."

The cable radio broadcast system plays an important role in North Korea. Not only does this allow for actual control of all the citizens and the execution of ideological training, but it is also used to convey the secret orders of the central and regional Party authorities to the people.

When I asked station chief Han whether foreign radio broadcasts including Radio Moscow are listened to in the South Hamgyong Province region, he answered negatively. He said that this was because citizens do not have radios, they cannot understand foreign languages, and the broadcast times are incompatible. However, he also confirmed what I had heard from confidential discussions with North Korean citizens that listening to foreign broadcasts is prohibited and punishable by criminal laws.

The process of basic reforms underway in socialist countries during the latter half of the 1980's was deliberately concealed from the people. This was to prevent the populace from developing any doubts concerning the fact that thanks to the sagacious leadership of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, the "most outstanding socialist system in the world" had been established. A large majority of North Korean citizens still have no idea of what the concepts of perestroyka, glasnost, or new thinking mean. Since April 1985, neither North Korean newspapers, radio, or television have given any hint concerning the rapid changes in the Soviet Union. In particular, information on the democratization process in the Soviet Union, the exposure of crimes committed during the Stalinist cult of personality period, or the restoration of those who were sacrificed under Stalinist oppression is strictly prohibited in North Korea.

When one considers the reprisals against those who were obstacles to the establishment of Kim Il-song's absolutist regime, and how the history of Korea since the end of the 19th century has been rewritten toward that goal, the blackout on information concerning reforms in the socialist world is not the least bit surprising.

Kim Il-song received training over a five-year time span at a special camp near Khabarovsk. One must recognize him as a talented student of the Stalinist party officers who manipulated him in Pyongyang to establish socialism in the northern half of the Korean peninsula. One must also recognize the fact that the source of the unparalleled cult of personality that has spread throughout North Korea today was built with the power of the Soviet propaganda machine, especially the media. Soviet newspapers at the time, in accordance with orders from the Supreme Political Guidance Bureau, helped in creating and circulating the myth that Kim Il-song commanded the struggle of the Korean nation against the Japanese colonialists.

Fabrication of the Background of Kim Il-song

There are several different versions of Kim Il-song's biography. They can be found in his works, speeches, and other documents as well. The reason and methodology for the repetitive recording of his biography is reminiscent of Orwell's "1984." All these efforts aim at the common objective of presenting Kim Il-song as the officially recognized leader of the movement to liberate the Korean peninsula who conducted the anti-Japanese struggle without any third-party assistance.

In the biographical account of Kim Il-song carried in "Political Culture," printed in the Soviet Union in 1967, Kim Il-song is said to have served as a secretary at the Chinese Komsomol (Communist Youth International), was a member of the Komsomol from 1926 to 1931, and was a member of the Chinese Communist Party from 1931 to 1945.

Kim is described as having been one of the leaders of the partisan movement in Manchuria from 1931 to 1945, rising from a regimental to divisional commander among the partisans. The distortion of facts begins shortly thereafter when the writers in a passage which states "Kim commanded the 88th Choson Elite Unit [choson chong'yoe pudae] (1942-1945) and participated in operations to liberate Choson." The names of other activists, the authors claim, were "forgotten." They did not mention that Kim Il-song, when he arrived in Pyongyang following liberation, bore the rank and position of a Soviet officer and had been conferred Soviet awards for his services.

From the 1940's to the first half of the 1950's, both Kim Il-song and North Korean propaganda were extremely modest in their appraisals of the contributions of "the commander of Choson's liberation," and in speeches before Soviet audiences this was particularly apparent. Kim Il-song wrote the following in an article carried in the 15 August 1952 edition of PRAVDA: " The Korean people were joyous on 15 August 1945, the day the most honored Soviet forces under the sagacious leadership of Supreme

Commander Stalin annihilated the elite units of the militarist Japanese Army, driving them from our land and giving the Korean people their much awaited liberation. That day was the greatest turning point in the history of Choson, and was a grand and distinct event."

At the time, Kim Il-song was writing about his "love" for "Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin," the "great Soviet liberator of the people" and Kim's own outstanding friend, savior, and redeemer of progressive mankind. After Stalin's death, Kim Il-song expressed his respects for Stalin by stating that Stalin would remain as the "redeemer of the Korean people" and the "leader of progressive mankind."

During the Khrushchev era of the mid 1950's, a "thaw" began in the Soviet Union. Two important characteristics of this thaw were the de-Stalinization movement and the change toward a policy of peaceful coexistence in the international arena. Kim Il-song worried that such developments would destroy his efforts at firmly establishing his absolutist government in North Korea. On 25 December 1955, Kim Il-song made a speech entitled "On Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism in Ideological Work" [actual speech was entitled "On Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism and Establishing Chuche in Ideological Work"]. This speech distanced party and state officials from Moscow while becoming the foundation for the spread of chuche ideology. This was also the signal for the beginning of both a purge of pro-Soviet pulakchi [proxies] within the North Korean leadership and a campaign which led to physical persecution of key personalities.

During my stay in Pyongyang, toward the end of the 1980's I came to know the son of one of those important "revisionist" faction personalities. Naturally, it is impossible at this time to reveal his name. He told me that the children of past "factionalist party members" occupy mid- to low-level positions among mainstay laborers, maintaining a generally comfortable life. However, they are denied any ability to exercise influence in political decisionmaking.

He complained: "We cannot maintain routine contact. There is a predetermined limit to promotions we can attain in our jobs, and it is impossible to go beyond that."

Defacto Abandonment of Marxism

The West and South Korea continue to call North Korea a "communist state." Within a Stalinist understanding of communism, this term may be correct. However, the current system in North Korea has been openly denying Marxist-Leninism for some time now. During the 1970's, North Korea insisted that chuche ideology was the creative application of the general truths of Marxist-Leninism to actualities in Choson. Since then, however, this claim slowly began to lose its luster.

In the 10th volume of the "Complete Works of the Great Chuche Ideology," it was pointed out that "chuche is qualitatively a unique ideology from Marxist-Leninism both contextually and structurally." NODONG SINMUN, in revealing the significance of the duties of "the successor of the chuche program," noted: "Kimilsongism is an ideology which represents a different historical era, and is distinguishable from what Marxist-Leninism had professed."

North Korea, having proclaimed that Marxist-Leninism was antiquated, banned the publication of works by Marx, Lenin, and Engels and completely confiscated all related books from bookstores and public libraries. I was unable even once to locate books like those during the time I worked in North Korea.

The actual departure from Marxist-Leninism did not necessarily conflict with Kim Il-song's intentions to use his relationship with the Soviet Union and other socialist states to enhance his power and stature domestically. To do this, a delegation which included Kim Il-song conducted a trip to the Soviet Union and other East European countries in 1984. During this period, I sent articles daily from the TASS branch in Pyongyang to Moscow on North Korea's opinions and on response to this trip.

In Pyongyang, the warm welcome displayed to this mission by those countries visited were seen as evidence of "the unlimited respect and reverence of the world's progressive people for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song." Periodical publications emphasized: "All the nation's party and state leaders greeted the mission with the enormous respect of their people for Kim. They fervently welcomed him as the eminent leader who guides the international communist workers movement down the path of time, and as the leader recognized by the revolution suited for our era."

North Korean newspapers emphasized that the fervent welcome and reception shown by other countries' heads of state to Kim Il-song was historically unprecedented. The conclusion reached here was that "Kim Il-song is the great leader of the peaceful revolution that guided not only our nation, but all the peoples of the world, to victory." NODONG SINMUN convinced its readers at the time: "The efforts by people to greet the great leader while respecting, following, and praising him is the current of the times."

The de-Stalinization campaign in the Soviet Union, as well as developments in China following the death of Mao Zedong, certainly showed Kim Il-song—the "liberator of Choson" and the creator of "the most progressive ideology of mankind"—what fate his myth will meet following his death. To avoid this, the "revolutionary tasks" of the leader must be passed on to someone who can continue to elucidate Kim's existing works. Considering the history and Confucian tradition of Korea, and viewed from Kim Il-song's own cultural standards, that successor could be none other than his own son.

This is rather frankly expressed in a book entitled "Kim Chong-il, Great Government, and His Radiating Immortal Exploits," written by "Labalelliyae" [spelling as published], head of the Peru Friendship Association, and published by the Foreign Language Publishing House in Pyongyang. I am certain that, in order to spread these claims which they find difficult to directly state themselves, the North Korean leadership uses a foreigner's name for its own propaganda material.

"A successor must appear at the opportune time; that is, at the time of revolutionary development. When the revolution is progressing brilliantly under the rule of an eminent leader, a successor must be put forth so as not to waste the approaching moment. If not, the great revolutionary tasks can be trampled by traitors and the great exploits of the leader will be threatened."

Kim Chong-il's Holy Land, Mt. Paektu

Ever since North Korean publications first carried a picture of Kim Chong-il in February 1963, incredible efforts which boggle the imagination have been made to ensure Kim Chong-il's position as the successor to Kim Il-song. Along the way, however, this propaganda campaign was fraught with significant difficulties. This started with the date and place of birth of the "successor." Of course, such a successor needed to be born within Choson territory, the "fire pot of the partisan struggle against Japan." If not, not only would this erode Kim Chong-il's authority, but it would also tarnish the image of Kim Il-song as the elderly leader who opposed the Japanese. Therefore, according to public documents, Kim Chong-il was said to have been born on 16 February 1942 at a "secret camp" in the forest of Mt. Paektu.

There still exist in the Soviet Union witnesses and historical documents which attest to the fact that the "dear leader" was born within Soviet territory. However, North Korea embarked on the popular mass campaign because for the time being these witnesses and documents in the Soviet Union "could not be proven."

Kim Chong-il himself is not the least bit modest in leading this campaign himself, revealing: "Because I was born in the flame of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, we are not accustomed to commemorating my birthday. I was raised on the back of my mother who launched a desperate battle within the tempests of Mt. Paektu."

In February 1987, on the 45th birthday of Kim Chong-il, a newly-restored secret camp at Mt. Paektu was built to strengthen this movement. At the center of this structure was a house which just happened to be similar to the one in which Kim Chong-il was born.

North Korean authorities organized a team of visitors composed of foreign journalists in the summer of 1987 to visit this area. An Hui-chon, the information department director of the foreign ministry who lead our team, said the following:

"All of you have the special honor of being the first among foreign journalists to visit this small log house in the coniferous forest of Mt. Paektu. We hope that the information media of the socialist countries will inform the whole world of the birth of our dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in this very place of Mt. Paektu."

An Hui-chon emphasized that a "second Mangyongdae" would be established at this location. Mangyongdae, the birthplace of Kim Il-song, has been proclaimed as the "spiritual home" of not only all Koreans but all of the world's revolutionary peoples. It has become a mandatory pilgrimage stop for all foreigners visiting North Korea. It was clear from what An had said that North Korea planned to use the Mt. Paektu camp primarily as a place of pilgrimage at which to pay homage to Kim Chong-il.

"The birth of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il was an emotional time in the life of our nation and all of mankind." A female guide, dressed in a military uniform similar to her other comrades in this area, habitually repeated these words while standing next to the small log house built in the open area among the Mt. Paektu forest.

The Completely Ornamented Revolutionary Historical Sites

Beginning in February 1987, mandatory treks to Kim Chong-il's birthplace commenced for primary school and technical college students as well as military personnel. Most visitors during the autumn are farmers taking advantage of the slow farming period. During our trip there, we frequently ran across groups of marchers lead by a standard bearer holding a red flag. These groups come to Hyesan by train or bus and march the remaining several kilometers along the road leading up to the "scenic place of historical interest."

Visitors tour the many memorial halls established to pass on for all eternity the "mysterious fortress" and "sacred land of revolution" of Mt. Paektu and the activities of Kim Il-song. Important among these are the Pochonbo Memorial Hall, commemorating the combat site between partisan units and Japanese in 1937; the Samjiyon Memorial Hall, where Kim Il-song's unit took respite; Taehongsan, where a battle occurred with the Japanese; and Kimjongsuk-kun, where the Pochonbo Combat Memorial stands.

The tour groups and guides we met among these memorials stated that with the exception of the Pochonbo Memorial Hall, which was started during the Korean war, construction of the remaining monuments commenced following a visit to the area by Kim Il-song in 1958. Construction was nearly complete by the end of the 1970's.

All places related to visits by Kim Il-song are artistically decorated massive monuments constructed with marble. They are engraved with either the maxims of Kim Il-song or explanations that a particular location was the site of a campfire made by Kim Chong-suk, a kitchen where she prepared meals for the "leadership" of the partisans during their marches.

Places where remnants of these campfires remain are covered with glass. Even the old decayed trees (whose ends had been cut off) were surrounded by glass cylinders, the words engraved on their stumps by the partisans praising Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il, and Kim Chong-suk having been restored. Toward the bottom of these cylinders the temperature is kept constant by air conditioners, and waterproof covers extending from top to bottom cover the stumps as well.

We made plans to visit one of the research offices which was restoring the worn out inscriptions in the decayed wood by using special equipment such as ultra-violet rays. An Hui-chon, intrigued when I pointed out that not even North Korean newspapers had announced the discovery of such inscriptions on the wood, stated that this provided me with "an opportunity to be the first to inform the entire world of this important news." I turned down this glory, feeling undeserving of the honor.

All the guides who provided answers to our questions had received higher education plus refresher training every year. In spite of this, they were embarrassed and flustered by the numerous questions of the foreign reporters. They even incurred hostility from the questioners themselves. Although a few campfires made by Kim Chong-suk within the forest seemed plausible, none of the guides could answer when or where Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-suk first met or got married, or whether there are any other children between them aside from Kim Chong-il.

They explained to me that the Mt. Paektu region was literally flooded with Japanese soldiers, police, and spies. However, the guides did not explain why, amidst such a situation, the partisans would reveal themselves by stripping bark from trees and inscribing them throughout the area. There was not one person who could answer the question of to what degree were the partisan bivouac sites, in particular the places where Kim Il-song's unit had made campfires, and the relics scientifically proven.

Tremendous Dedication of Resources to the Cult of Personality

During the trip, I was able to observe a series of large-scale construction projects underway in the Mt. Paektu area. A military unit was building yet another road leading to the top of the mountain. Plans called for the work to include the construction of a road to the top of Mt. Paektu, operation of a passenger boat on the lake there, the laying of a rail link linking Mt. Paektu with the northern railroad currently under construction which runs to Hyesan, and the construction of modern facilities for travelers.

After returning to Hyesan, I took a walk through the city: it appeared as though it had recently suffered through a war. Even buildings in the city center were extremely old and worn, never having been repaired once judging from their appearance. There were many old, temporary buildings which lacked plumbing or sewage facilities, as well as other comforts. I was struck by thoughts of the eloquently reconstructed and preserved Kim Il-song Admiration Museum and other monumental historical sites among this ideal order, and just how worthy of admiration they REALLY were.

The sites we saw along our trip proved to what degree the Kim Il- song and Kim Chong-il group is expending enormous financial, material, and human resources in creating the cult of personality and historical accounts aimed at fulfilling their own ambitions. In reality, these projects have been accomplished at the cost of having immobilized other social programs and of freezing the people's standard of living for a long time. At the same time, by inviting foreign correspondents to Mt Paektu, North Korea's leadership intended to show the Soviet Government and representatives of other socialist states the activities of Kim Il-song in his twenties and thirties during the "period of independence" when a new era in the history of mankind emerged. However, all these tours show is that North Korea is forcefully demanding the acceptance of their heterodoxy within Korea's history.

A few years ago, a renowned Japanese horticulturist "Kamomo Todaeru" [spelling as published] cultivated the "Kim Chong-il flower" in an expression of his respect for Kim. According to an account by KCNA, this flower "developed from the deep joy and growing respect and love of people from across the five continents for the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il."

As confirmed by KCNA, North Koreans have an "unwavering aspiration" to cultivate this flower. Toward this end, a group of scholars was formed from the Central Botanical Gardens, and a modern hothouse 15 square meters wide was constructed. The flowers were bred within a short period, and by February 1990 shrubs with over 10,000 total plants were sent to all offices and departments within the government as well as to botanical gardens throughout the provinces. These flowers are also cultivated by enterprises, collective farm units, units of the Korean People's Army [KPA], and individual citizens.

On the list of movies shown at North Korean theaters, scripts by foreign writers do not appear. This is in accordance with the policy of not accepting the infiltration into North Korean society of any ideologies outside of chuche.

In February 1990, on the day of Kim Chong-il's birthday, it was reported: "Writers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, under the sagacious leadership of the party, arrived at a shining pyramid in the completion of literary works in 1989." In their literary endeavors, a directive was received from Kim Chong-il stating: "Writers, clearly recognizing the intentions of the party concerning the accelerating development of literature, must establish a new turning point in the creation of literary works."

Government publications noted: "Works such as the ode 'Huinnun' [White Eye], which praises the great appearance of our respected and dear leader who stands at the hub of socialist construction with supreme passion, and the song 'We Cannot Live Without His Protection,' which vividly depicts the greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il and the loyalty the people have for him, are arousing all of the people."

Such songs are broadcast dozens of times per day on radios and televisions throughout North Korea. Video clips containing songs praising Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il are also shown at four- to five-minute intervals between regularly scheduled broadcasting on radio and television. The words to these songs appear at the bottom of the television screen.

Music Festivals for Ordinary People

However, praising the "dear leader" is not a glorious fate limited to professionals within the cultural world. All workers must be able to express their emotions toward Kim Chong-il. To do so, on the "February Commemorative Day" music festivals for the general public are held as independent artistic activities at all factories, public organizations, collective farms, military units, and schools from the fallen woods of Mt Paektu to the small villages of the military demarcation line, from the salt farms of the West Sea to the fishing villages of the East Sea.

The February 1990 music festivals were held in over 200 cities and 400 villages across the country. KCNA reported: "To the entire nation's citizens who resoundingly sang songs of loyalty and filial respect, this artistic creation magnificently became a unique artistic event which showed the solid strength of the revolutionary ranks and the lively and vigorous face of the people enjoying a fully rewarding life thanks to the care of the party."

Farmers from the Chongsanni Collective Farm sang "Songs of Happiness and Respect," including "Hello, Dear Leader Comrade," accompanied by an orchestra organized of "instruments of love" which were arbitrarily provided to collective groups or individuals in the name of the "Party Center." At the same time, on the ship Ponghwasan on the far-away seas, crew members fervently sang "My Home at the Secret Camp at Paektu" and "I Cannot Live Without Your Care."

In North Korea, no one can even think that there is anything superior to Kim Chong-il's opinion. Most books without exception carry so many references to Kim Chong-il's "great efforts" that there is almost nowhere his influence is not apparent. This leadership is apparent in almost all realms, down to the most trivial. For example: "Kim Chong-il manages affairs in all fields such as literature, arts, motion pictures, opera, formative arts, music, dance, and the circus."

According to North Korean propaganda, the arrival of a "twentieth-century renaissance" and the opening of a "new era in the area of world arts" is thanks to the outstanding actions of Kim Chong-il. However, theorists in Pyongyang are exasperated by the fact that there are few people aware of such devoted efforts by the "dear leader."

Among the collection of works by the "dear leader" which excludes his handwritten writings, there are works discussing Kim Chong-il's inborn leadership and moral character of noble communism, as well as those works discussing his endless loyalty to the "great leader." For example, in the novel "Chongjok," the "lofty attitude" of Kim Chong-il is depicted. In the novel, Kim Chong-il has the train he and his father are travelling in stop in a quiet location so that Kim Il-song, tired from the trip, can rest. Within the collection, memoirs and short stories are also introduced. Each consistently depicts "the emotional praising of the heavenly Lodestar Kim Chong-il's manifestation." "The consistent luster of the Sun (the father) and the Star (the son) is becoming a new, major basis of national prosperity unseen in this country's thousands of years of history."

As is persistently claimed in official propaganda, Kim Chong-il himself illustrates the best example of respect for the leader. Among Kim Chong-il's major exploits include his never-tiring concern and protection of the leader's health as well as his adherence to Kimilsongism.

One interesting episode which I myself witnessed occurred in the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang in 1984. Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il had come to the embassy to express their condolences over the passing of General Secretary Andropov. Kim Il-song, who had maintained a personal friendship with Andropov, appeared lost in recollection and a bit emotional. After getting up from his seat and heading toward the exit, Kim Il-song stopped in the middle of the hall to conclude a conversation with Soviet Ambassador Shubunikov [spelling as published]. Kim Chong-il, who had been walking a bit ahead of Kim Il-song, turned around and urged him, "Let's go, let's go." Kim Il-song immediately terminated the conversation and obediently followed his son. Surprised at such a spectacle, we spent a considerable amount of times afterwards trying to analyze this incident.

"16,000-Page Reading Movement"

Following Kim Chong-il's example in the "protection of the leader" is a major element of a movement among North Korea's young entitled "Let us learn from the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il." All young boys and girls in North Korea must participate in this movement. There are various groups divided by age researching Kim Chong-il's accomplishments during both his childhood and adolescence. In study and in behavior, the young learn to emulate Kim Chong-il.

At the 1989 meeting of the Socialist Workers Youth League [SWYL], each department drew up one-year plans and goals to carry out this movement. One of these projects was "marching while reading" up to "Chongil" peak in conjunction with Kim Chong-il's birthday. During the march, the youth would accomplish their goal of reading 16,000 pages annually of political, educational, and technological books while "deeply researching and consolidating the outstanding writings of the great leader and the dear leader." The number 16 was not chosen randomly: it appears as though it was chosen to match the date of Kim Chong-il's birthday.

North Korea regards "loyalty" and "filial respect" as the basis of "revolutionary world outlook" and a "communist attitude and inclination." They do not place any type of tentative limitation on the sphere of educational projects concerning the two Kims. These projects are divided based on the following three characteristics. The first characteristic is that the training aims at grasping and commanding the various classes of society and adult organizations. The second is that the training must be done not only during specially allotted times within the sphere of various study systems, but also during rest periods or private free time as well. Finally, these training projects utilize the basic character of humans which pursues creativity and self expression.

KCNA notes that Kim Il-song, who "spares nothing when it comes to students," and Kim Chong-il developed the compulsory secondary education system and established numerous assembly halls for Communist Youth League members and primary school students, adopting measures to "systematically foster exceptionally talented children.

Reflective of this "happiness and glory of today" are the students of Silli Middle School in Pyongyang. They have had the glory some thirteen times of making and presenting hand embroidered works such as "Faithful Sunflower," "Flower of Kim Il-song," and "Flower of Kim Chong-il." Only those who study North Korean publications with a knowledge of the realities in North Korea can grasp the hidden nuance of a simple term like "haeparagi" [sunflower] and guess the meaning of this gift provided to Kim Chong-il. NODONG SINMUN for 15 February 1989, the 47th birthday of the "dear leader comrade" carried the following passage: "Highly revering and devoting oneself to the glorious 'Party Center'—Kim Chong-il—just as the sunflower which looks up to the sun, is the most lofty purpose one can have, and is a solid revolutionary conviction that is deeply rooted in the hearts of our people."

According to North Korean tradition, in return for the "gifts of loyalty" received from the people on both Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's birthdays, the "gift of love" is divided among the citizens. Students receive school uniforms and candy. Every year in February, "love" airplanes and helicopters fly even to the most remote islands delivering gifts. Adults are allowed to gorge themselves somewhat and drink liquor on this occasion.

Many stores in Pyongyang were open throughout the night from 15 to 16 February 1990. Long lines led to stores which sold, as could be read the propaganda expression displayed in the store, "consideration goods" [paeryo sangpum] (goods available for purchase during the celebration period are referred to by this name). Within the strict rationing system which has already been ongoing for several years, North Korean citizens are able to purchase meat, sugar, noodles, and a relatively large amount of other goods only on Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's birthdays. One such set contained a bottle of vodka, two packs of cigarettes, a one-kilogram bag of sugar, and one bag of seasonings. One store which I entered at 0130 in the morning was limiting the number of these sets which could be purchased to one.

On celebration days like these no one thinks of conservation. This was the case from 15 to 17 February 1990. In spite of the fact that numerous factories had terminated operations and energy supplies were limited in rural areas due to a serious power shortage, the night streets of Pyongyang were flooded with the sparkle of lights, including festival decorations.

Public Performance of Pangjaesan Modern Music Team

In celebration of Kim Chong-il's birthday, a lavish banquet has been held each year since 1983 for foreign representatives stationed in Pyongyang to culminate the birthday festivities. Since 1988, this banquet has been held at the elegant official residence of the WPK Central Committee. Even veteran diplomats with extensive experience serving in other countries are surprised at the abundance and variety of food and drinks to which the visitors are treated.

At the 1988 party, the first public performance of the Pangjaesan Modern Music Team caused quite a sensation. Their costumes were revealing, and their peculiar movements were as good as the famous Paris variety show "Crazy Horse Saloon." The majority of those in attendance ignored decorum and hastily left their seats with their cameras and moved closer to the stage. So that everyone could view the show, the stage was raised to eye level with the help of technicians. When I showed one of these pictures to a North Korean friend of mine afterward, he refused to believe that such a show could take place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Following the performance, the young women changed their clothes and appeared at the party as dance partners. They knew a large number of different dances and said that they dance as a hobby even at their houses. This was simply unthinkable to the common North Korean. Should it be disclosed that someone was dancing, it would be impossible to avoid at least a minimum criticism of having been infected by a bourgeois life-style.

In 1989, a variety show troupe that had been performing in Moscow quietly entered Pyongyang for these celebrations. The North Koreans did not even inform the Soviet Consulate of the fact that a Soviet art troupe had arrived in North Korea. Their stay was concealed even more meticulously than the visit of a secret envoy, and the location of their performance was more strictly controlled than the deployment of a military defense installation.

During the first day of their visit, the scrupulous North Korean guidance personnel demanded that the Soviet show troupe personnel receive AIDS tests. North Korea had never made such a request to foreign art troupes, including African states. The meaning of their request became evident when North Korean representatives asked the head of the Soviet art troupe to have the female performers attend some type of evening party and stay with [katchi ittorok] some of the high-level cadres. The male members of the troupe were not to attend this evening party. The Soviet art troupe refused this request.

After the show, members of the variety show noted that Kim Chong-il, accompanied by his wife and a legion of younger people including his close advisors, attended and watched the performance. There was also a joint performance between the Soviet art troupe and the "Pangjaesan" band. North Korea's media, for some reason, remained silent on the variety show's performance. However, there is no need to doubt the fact that the performance of this

Soviet art troupe was personally approved by Kim Chong-il. Under the conditions of the North Korean system, could anyone else besides Kim Chong-il approve the visit and performance by artists such as these? North Korea paid for the troupe's round trip travel expenses, billeting and meals, and paid a performance fee in hard currency. Aside from the "Party Center," there is no one who could use a Mercedes with Party Central Committee license plates to transport the artists around and allow them to perform in an official government residence watched by armed guards.

I Was "Persona Non Grata" in North Korea

At the time, my interests became focused on getting a more detailed understanding of this secret side of the lives of North Korea's elite as well as of the "February Celebration" thrown for the dear comrade leader. The numerous requests for meetings with individuals which I forwarded to the information department of the Foreign Ministry returned each time without an answer.

In March 1990, Pan Chong-nam, section chief [pusongchang] in charge of socialist country affairs within the Foreign Ministry advised me to "write more articles in support of our revolution," expressing his displeasure at several of the articles which I had sent to Moscow. However, he refused to indicate just what exactly those articles were about.

Things became clearer during talks held with high-level diplomats of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang at North Korea's Foreign Ministry. After a protracted but meaningless argument that a TASS correspondent had been slandering North Korea's socialist system, North Korea's foreign minister admitted that it was my article concerning Kim Chong-il's birthday which caused their dissatisfaction. However, there was absolutely no response to questions of what made the "dear comrade leader" complain and what facts were distorted in the articles. In spite of this, the North Koreans advised the Soviet diplomats that expediting my return to the Soviet Union would be good. At this time, the North Koreans were aware of the fact that my term as a correspondent was nearing its end and that I had ordered a train ticket for Moscow that would depart on 5 June 1990. However, no matter how insignificant an insult directed toward the "greatest ideologist and policy maker of our times" by an ordinary reporter may be, simply letting it go by would be an even bigger affair. On 3 April, the North Korean Foreign Ministry requested through the Soviet Embassy that I take measures to leave North Korea within seven days.

In Moscow, where I was already making preparations for my replacement, I originally intended to ignore the seven-day deadline set by the North Koreans. However, knowing the temperament of my Pyongyang friends and their clever skills at fabricating automobile accidents, I decided to hasten my preparations to depart the country. I departed the "Capital of Revolution" on 12 May 1990, five days past the date decided on by the North Koreans.

This was certainly no ordinary incident. This was the first time North Korea, who in the history of Soviet-North Korean diplomacy could never openly criticize the Soviet Union, had expelled a Soviet correspondent.

My last article forwarded from North Korea and carried in a Soviet publication was about the rainbow of Mt. Paektu which appeared on Kim Chong-il's birthday. In a February 1990 NODONG SINMUN article it was reported: "Above the deepest areas of Mt. Paektu, the holy land of the revolution, a strange phenomenon is often witnessed. This is the appearance of a beautiful rainbow." The ends of this seven-colored rainbow connect the house where Kim Chong-il was born and the Sobaek River. Chongil Peak is located at the center point of the rainbow. "This legendary occurrence attests to the fact that even nature brightly illuminates the entire earth during the deeply meaningful month of February and blesses the future of our fatherland, which is rising like the brightly shining Star of Paektu."

This was enough for me. Although I was departing, I was contented. This was because I believed that sooner or later, this rainbow would no longer radiate its light.

Burma

BBC Interviews ABSDF's Moe Thi Zun

BK2304043191 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 22 Apr 91

[From the "Current Affairs" program]

[Text] At a time when the Burmese Government is ruling out any transfer of power, Moe Thi Zun, chairman of the All Burma Students Democratic Front [ABSDF], is making a tour of Europe, including Britain. During the past week, Moe Thi Zun and Win Moe met and held discussions with an official representative from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Jim Lester, a member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee; and Anthony Combes, secretary of the British Parliament's Human Rights Group and member of Parliament.

ABSDF Chairman Moe Thi Zun also spoke with the BBC this week:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified BBC correspondent] What is the main objective of this foreign tour?

[Moe Thi Zun] We are currently touring Europe at the invitation of the International Union of Students, IUS, to attend its special conference in Czechoslovakia.

[Correspondent] Did you attend in your capacity as chairman of the ABSDF?

[Moe Thi Zun] Yes, I attended as chairman of the ABSDF and as a Burmese student representative. There were two student representatives—myself and Win Moe.

[Correspondent] What was presented and discussed and what decisions were taken at the conference?

[Moe Thi Zun] The conference was attended by representatives from over 100 countries. There were several discussions and resolutions made at the conference. They were very interested in the Burmese student movement, and there was extensive discussion on the issue of Burmese students. The IUS recognized the ABSDF as a member and arranged the program for our tour of Europe. They also decided to publish posters for worldwide distribution in four languages on the violation of human rights and the suppression of democracy by the military government.

[Correspondent] Was there discussion on the situation of Burma's education at the IUS conference?

[Moe Thi Zun] The IUS, which is our fraternal student organization, was very interested in the Burmese students movement. In order to allow students to continue their education we have opened two universities at the border—the Jungle University and the Federal University. We learned that programs will be drawn up to send teachers to these universities and to arrange international scholarships for Burmese students.

[Correspondent] We have received reports that universities will be reopened this May. What do you have to say about the reopening of the universities?

[Moe Thi Zun] The universities have been closed for almost three years. Nothing like this has taken place in any other country. We discussed this matter in detail at the IUS conference. We said that the military clique unfairly shut down universities even though it is detrimental to the interests of the students and to the country. That is why the IUS passed a resolution in favor of an international campaign for the Burmese students.

If the universities are to be reopened, it will be necessary to solve the political problems related to education. They cannot get away with simply a token reopening of universities to gain political mileage. I know the spirit of my comrade students.

[Correspondnet] What is your objective in visiting Britain?

[Moe Thi Zun] While we were in Prague we received an invitation from Amnesty International to attend its special annual conference in London marking its 30th anniversary. At the conference we submitted a full report on the record of violation of human rights in Burma and biographic data on our detained comrades and political leaders. They passed a resolution calling for the application of international pressure. Students at Oxford University also arranged for us to speak.

[Correspondent] Moe Thi Zun, what kind of responsibilities are you taking in various organizations?

[Moe Thi Zun] After assuming the position of ABSDF chairman, I also became joint general secretary of an organization which was recently formed—the National Solidarity Committee against Military Dictatorship.

[Correspondent] How are the students of the ABSDF operating under your leadership?

[Moe Thi Zun] We have a student strength of about 4,500 along the Thai-Burma border. We have 19 ABSDF battalions. We are providing medical and educational services to the people. We are waging an armed struggle together with the DAB [Democratic Alliance of Burma] against the military clique.

[Correspondent] Moe Thi Zun, what would you like to say about the issue of the transfer of power? What do you think the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] government is likely to do politically?

[Moe Thi Zun] The military government has no intention of transferring power. Declaration No. 1/90 quite blatantly describes their attitude. The elections were held for their own interests in the belief that the NUP [National Unity Party] was certain to win. When the outcome of the elections did not meet their expectations, they suppressed the National League for Democracy which won the elections and detained the representatives of the people. These actions show they want to form a puppet government. In furtherance of this political goal they are likely to hold a sham national convention followed by the drafting of a constitution which is likely to protect their interests. The ultimate intention of the military government is to form a puppet government as soon as possible in order to present it as a legitimate government before the world.

[Correspondent] Do you have anything special to say on the alleged preparations for drafting a new constitution?

[Moe Thi Zun] Currently we have no constitution. However, only a genuine national convention has the right to draw up a new constitution. A genuine national convention should include representatives of the entire nation in the interests of the nation, democracy, peace, and human rights. The constitution should be drafted following frank discussions and consulations. This matter has nothing to do with the military, and they are not entitled to write the constitution.

[Correspondent] Can you comment on economic issues?

[Moe Thi Zun] The military clique earned a vast amount of foreign exchange this year. You may say they earned a lot of assets. Although some may think their economy is very successful, the people now face the bleakest economic plight. The military clique is not implementing a market economy, but a barter system of exchanging finished products for raw materials. As a result, they are cheaply selling off the country's natural resources. It is like a household where, after the death of the parents, the children sell off all the assets such as cars, house, and land accumulated by the parents. Their economic system amounts to stripping everything from the house for sale. This cannot raise the national economy.

The 8-8-88 [8 August 1988] events were a reflection of the deteriorating economic situation in Burma. Now the military clique is maintaining the level of military expenditure at 60 percent of the national budget. At the same time there is rampant inflation with unfairly high prices of basic food commodities. Although the political parties do not enjoy freedom of publication, the military clique is free to print unlimited amounts of currency notes which fuels rampant inflation. Nobody trusts Burmese currency in the border areas where traders do not keep kyat bills for more than 24 hours. Obviously the military clique is totally unable to solve the economic problems facing the entire nation.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Moe Thi Zun. [end recording]

Delegation Leaves for Thai Border Meeting

BK2204151791 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] A delegation to attend the fifth regular meeting of the Myanmar [Burma]-Thai Border Committee to be held in Kanchanaburi left for Thailand by a special military plane this morning. The delegation is headed by Major General Maung Aye, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar and commander of the Eastern Military Command, and includes Brigadier General Soe Myint, commander of the Southeast Military Command, and 22 others.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon [Rangoon] airport by Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Maj. Gen. Thein Win, Air Force chief of staff; high-ranking military officers; Director General U Ohn Gyaw and responsible officials of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department; Mr. Thawutchai Sundaraja, Thai charge d'affaires ad interim, and staff members of the Thai Embassy; and responsible officials of departments concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Sources: Access to Philippine Bases To Continue

BK2304015291 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Singapore can expect continued access to military facilities in the Philippines after September, when the lease for American bases in the country expires, sources said yesterday.

They said there was nothing in the discussions, held in Manila last week between Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and President Corazon Aquino and members of their delegations, to indicate that Singapore would be denied access to the facilities.

Negotiations between the two sides on legal and technical details of the arrangements after September have not taken place, the sources added.

They were commenting on the report from Manila on Thursday in which Foreign Secretary Rual Manglapus spoke of the need for a new treaty between the two countries which will allow some aircraft and personnel belonging to the Republic of Singapore Air Force [RSAF] to remain permanently at Clark Air Base.

The RSAF detachment has been stationed at the base under an agreement involving an exchange of diplomatic notes between Singapore and the Philippines.

Negotiations between the United States and the Philippines on the extension of the lease for US bases are now stalled over the issue of the amount of compensation that should be paid by the US.

In a report carried by AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, Mr Manglapus said that even if the US and the Philippines signed a treaty extending the lease, Singapore would still have to negotiate its own treaty covering the RSAF detachment because it is a "separate power".

The RSAF is among the air forces of several countries which use the Crow Valley bombing range at Clark Air Base for training.

Several Philippine officials are pressing the Aquino administration to ask third countries using the base to make payments to Manila after the expiry of the lease on US military facilities in September.

In 1986, Singapore extended $4 million in technical assistance to Manila to help upgrade the Philippine air force.

At the end of his two-day visit to Manila last Friday, Mr Goh expressed the hope that Singapore would be allowed to continue to use Clark Air Base which he described as an invaluable training facility for the RSAF.

Replying to a question on continued access to the base for Singapore, he reminded Filipino reporters at his press conference that existing arrangements were made within the context of friendly relations among ASEAN countries and the close ties between Singapore and the Philippines.

Cambodia

Communique Issued on Hor Namhong's USSR Visit

BK2304052091 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Apr 91

["Communique"]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR foreign minister, Comrade Hor Namhong, State of Cambodia foreign minister, is paying a working visit to the USSR.

Accompanying Comrade Hor Namhong on this visit were Comrade Phi Thach, deputy foreign minister, and cadres from the Planning and Foreign Ministries.

National Assembly Standing Committee Meets 22 Apr

BK2204124291 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 91

["Announcement of the National Assembly Cabinet"]

[Text] The National Assembly cabinet wishes to inform the public that at 0730 on 22 April 1991 at the office of the National Assembly cabinet, the standing committee of the National Assembly held a meeting to examine and decide on a number of issues concerning the implementation of the law on the protection of state property, the law on forestry control, rulings of the jury of the People's Supreme Court, and grievances of the people.

The meeting was actively conducted all day long in an atmosphere of solidarity and unity and ended at 1700 on the same day.

Heng Samrin Sends Greetings to Cuba's Castro

BK2004071091 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 April (SPK)—On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the day of victory of the Cuban people, Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau, sent a message of warm greetings to Fidel Ruz Castro, general secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [CPC] Central Committee and chairman of both the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

In the message, the Cambodian leader particularly said: "The historic victory on 19 April over the mercenaries achieved by the Cuban people under the leadership of the CPC marked Cuba's significant revolutionary turningpoint. This is evidence of the heroic Cuban people's dignity, courage, and determination to resolutely confront all kinds of maneuvers carried out by the reactionaries to sabotage the revolutionary process and to defend the national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

"We highly value the victory scored by the Cuban people and reaffirm our full support for the struggle to fight off all manner of attempts to overthrow socialism in the Cuban territory."

"We are firmly confident that the relations of fraternal solidarity and cooperation between our two parties, governments, and peoples will continue to ceaselessly strengthen and develop in the interest of our two countries."

Tie Banh Greets Cuban Defense Minister Castro

BK2204155191 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban people's victory over the U.S. imperialists, Comrade General Tie Banh, the State of Cambodia's defense minister, conveyed a message of greetings to his Cuban counterpart, Comrade General Raul Castro.

The message read: On behalf of the cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces and in my own name, we are extremely pleased to extend to you, as well as the cadres and combatants of the Republic of Cuba's revolutionary Armed Forces, the warmest and most sincere greetings. On this solemn occasion we would like to wish you, and through you the Cuban cadres and combatants, all the best. May all of you have the best of health, zealous physical strength, and happiness and achieve new, still greater successes in implementing the noble tasks entrusted by the party and people.

Tie Banh Receives Lao, SRV, Soviet Attaches

BK2004093991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] On the morning of 13 April, the day of the traditional new year, the military attaches to the embassies of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Soviet Union in Cambodia visited and expressed warm greetings to the leaders of our Defense Ministry.

Attending the ceremony were Comrade General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister; Comrade Lieutenant General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister; Comrade Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, deputy defense minister and chief of General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]; Comrade Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda, trade minister, deputy defense minister, and chief of the CPAF General Logistics Department; Comrade Lieutenant General Soy Keo, deputy defense minister; and Comrade Major General Tha Thanchan, deputy chief of the CPAF General Political Department; as well as several leading cadres of the Defense Ministry.

In a jubilant atmosphere, the military attaches of the fraternal countries actively and happily participated in celebrating the traditional new year of the brotherly Cambodian people. They wished the leaders of our Defense Ministry new zealous physical strength, new energetic intelligence, and new, still greater successes. May the leadership of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry and the CPAF achieve every success.

Taking the floor on that occasion, Comrade Tie Banh said, after specifically underlining the great military successes scored by the CPAF over the past 12 years, that we have been able to overcome in every situation and the CPAF and Cambodian people score achievements with each passing day.

On the occasion of the Cambodian people's traditional new year, the comrade defense minister also wished the brotherly Lao, Vietnamese, and Soviet peoples every success in promoting their counties' just cause of development. May the relations of solidarity and cooperation between the peoples of the three fraternal Indochinese countries and Soviet Union effectively develop and eternally remain intact.

Hun Sen Receives French City Mayor on 19 Apr

BK2004053391 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0408 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 20—A delegation of the Montreuil city of France led by its mayor Jean Pierre Brard left here on April 19 after an eight-day visit to Cambodia.

While there, the delegation paid a courtesy visit to Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. The delegation had working sessions with Hok Langdi, deputy secretary of the Phnom Penh party committee and mayor of the city, and Sek Setha, deputy foreign minister.

The French delegation also visited the national museum, the former royal palace, the Toul Sleng museum of genocide, and other economic and cultural establishments.

Directive on Marking Anniversary of Lenin's Birth

BK2004112991 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Directive of Central Propaganda and Education Commission on Marking Lenin's Birthday]

[Text] The 121st anniversary of the great Lenin's birthday will be on 22 April 1991. The Soviet Communist Party and people in the Soviet Union will extensively mark this occasion to commemorate the deeds and doctrine of the great Lenin for the cause of Soviet society's development.

The great Lenin was an astute leader and the teacher of the working class and people in various countries. He is one of mankind's geniuses; his doctrine has opened up the way for mankind to clearly see each nation's just and correct cause of struggling for freedom and socialism.

To join people in the Soviet Union and in other countries to extensively mark this occasion, the Central Propaganda and Education Commission would like to provide the following directive.

I. Requirement and essence.

1. Pay attention to gathering and educating cadres, party members, workers, employees, and our people on the biography, ideals, deeds, cause to struggle, way of life, and work of the great Lenin.

2. Heighten attention to learning and understanding the teaching and advice of the great Lenin on building a working class and on tempering oneself to become a revolutionary cadre with good behavior and character and with the confidence of the people and masses.

3. Increase and deepen understanding on the situation in the Soviet Union, particularly the perestroyka policy adopted by the Soviet Communist Party.

4. Heighten the morale of the entire party, people, and Armed Forces and make them realize the achievements and experiences of world revolution in the past, and on this basis be vigilant against maneuvers and tricks of all stripes of enemies, particularly imperialists and international reaction, who are still attempting to topple world revolution in general and the Cambodian revolution in particular.

5. Vigorously promote internal education so that the masses, people, party members, and combatants clearly realize the relations of solidarity and friendship and cooperation and the great assistance of the Soviet Union to the Cambodian revolution in the past, at present, and in the future. And from this, continue to heighten the will to fight in every field and absolutely prevent the genocidal regime's return on the basis of energetically strengthening and expanding the relations of solidarity and friendship and Cambodian-Soviet cooperation, as well as between Cambodia and countries the world over.

II. Aspects of the celebration.

1. Provinces, cities, schools, factories, and enterprises with Soviet specialists among them should widely organize get-togethers in accordance with the essence of the above points.

2. Phnom Penh City and the Cambodian-Soviet friendship association should contact the Soviet cultural center and organize internal meetings on the great Lenin.

3. The Information and Culture Ministry should get in touch with the Soviet Union's embassy accredited to Cambodia in organizing exhibitions, sports and artistic activities, and a film week for the people's entertainment.

4. The Central Propaganda and Education Commission should cooperate with central ministries and services and provinces adjoining Phnom Penh City in organizing programs for Soviet lecturers to address cadres, party members, and workers.

5. Newspapers, radio, televison, SPK, and the Phnom Penh daily, should work together in disseminating information about the great Lenin from 20 to 24 April 1991, including an interview with the Soviet ambassador to Cambodia.

The Central Propaganda and Education Commission warmly places its hope on the cooperative spirit of ministries, services, provinces, and cities to successfully organize this anniversary.

Slogans:

1. The great Lenin is the teacher and astute leader of the working class and oppressed people the world over. He is with us forever.

2. Long live the glorious CPSU!

3. Long live the glorious Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party!

4. Long live the relations of solidarity and friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and the Soviet Union. May they last forever.

757 Enemy Soldiers 'Immobilized' in Jan-Mar

BK2104044691 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1220 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Phnom Penh 20 April (SPK)—According to a military report, during the first quarter of the year, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, in cooperation with security and militia forces, launched 638 mopping-up operations in remote areas of Siem Reap- Oddar Meanchey Province, 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh. We immobilized 757 enemy soldiers—including 434 killed, 263 wounded, and 60 captured—and we seized 256 weapons and some war materiel and destroyed 97 enemy hideouts.

During the same period, the province welcomed back 150 [as received] misled persons—77 Polpotist and 67 Sonsannian soldiers—who brought along with them 132 assorted firearms.

KPNLF, FUNCINPEC Welcome Cease-Fire Appeal

BK2304071491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] France and Indonesia, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar made a joint statement yesterday, 22 April, appealing for a temporary cease-fire in Cambodia. This appeal has already been welcomed by His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] faction.

The joint appeal said the cessation of hostilities should run from 1 May and last at least until the conclusion of the Cambodian Supreme National Council meeting. This meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Jakarta before the end of May, during which the stubborn position of the Heng Samrin regime vis-a-vis the peace plan brokered by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on 26 November last year to end the war in Cambodia, will be discussed in detail.

This morning, the Voice of the Khmer [VOK] newsroom received a statement reacting to this appeal from the Office of the Personal Representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia and Asia. The statement said the FUNCINPEC gratefully welcomed this appeal.

At the same time, the KPNLF also welcomed the appeal, saying this was what the KPNLF wanted to end the killing between Cambodians.

In a brief reply this morning to the VOK correspondent's question concerning this cease-fire call, His Excellency Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and prime minister of the National Government of Cambodia, said this appeal was what he wanted. However, he noted that if a cease-fire was to be observed anyway, why was it necessary to wait until 1 May 1991. His Excellency Son Sann said that he wants an immediate cessation of hostilities because where there is firing there are Vietnamese troops, and consequently more Cambodians will die.

His Excellency Son Sann stressed that there are still more than 50,000 Vietnamese troops and more than 1 million Vietnamese civilians living illegally in Cambodia.

In addition, His Excellency Son Sann said the Jakarta meeting would be postponed to a later date until there is a cease-fire. Only after a cease-fire is enforced will a meeting be immediately held to discuss the overall problem of Cambodia in conformity with the Big-Five peace plan. He proposed that the meeting be held at the end of this April or in early May. He said that for a long time he has asked that no Cambodians listen too much to the Vietnamese and engage in inter-Cambodian massacre.

Factions React to U.S. MIA Office in Hanoi

BK2104091691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 21 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla factions, backed by the United States in their war with Phnom Penh, made light on Sunday of a U.S. decision to establish an official presence in Vietnam, saying the move did not worry them.

A spokesman for the guerrilla group loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said the opening of the office in Hanoi to resolve cases of U.S. servicemen still missing-in-action (MIA) from the Vietnam war "does not mean that the United States is establishing relations with Vietnam."

"We are not concerned. There are many conditions to be fulfilled by the Vietnamese for Washington to accept normalisation with Hanoi," spokesman Ek Seriwath said.

Followers of Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia's former monarch, form one of two small non-communist guerrilla groups allied to the powerful Marxist Khmer Rouge in the civil war against the Phnom Penh Government, which was set up 12 years ago by invading Vietnamese troops.

Ok Serei-Sopheak, an official with the other non-communist guerrilla group, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), described as "diplomatic theatricals" Saturday's joint announcement in Hanoi by the United States and Vietnam that Washington is to open a temporary office for MIA affairs in the Vietnamese capital.

"No major development can take place anyhow before Vietnam's Communist Party Congress," Mr. Sopheak added. The congress is expected in June or July.

While the Khmer Rouge receive massive military aid from China, the United States gives non-lethal assistance to Prince Sihanouk's faction and the KPNLF.

The U.S. office in Hanoi will be the first official U.S. presence in Vietnam since Hanoi's Communist troops defeated a U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government in 1975.

But Washington has set major conditions on normalising ties with Hanoi, including a settlement ending the war in Cambodia along the lines of a United Nations peace plan and a resolution of the MIA question.

SRV Establishes Command Post in Kompong Cham

BK2104030391 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] According to reports from the residents and our resistance agents operating in the provincial town of Kompong Cham, the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors recently set up a secret command post west of the fish market in the town. There are 14 Vietnamese military staff wearing civilian clothes working there with three puppet soldiers who serve as guards and cleaners.

The secret command post is to give orders to and control Kompong Cham Province's lackey puppet governor and district chiefs as well as covert Vietnamese agents implanted in various villages, communes, and districts of the province.

The reports also said people are absolutely prohibited from walking past the secret command post, and anyone seen walking there would be summarily executed.

The installation of the secret command post is clear evidence that the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors will continue to control and occupy Cambodia forever. They never want to settle their over-12-year-old war of aggression in Cambodia via a comprehensive political solution in compliance with the significance of the framework blueprint of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

SRV's Stance Called Flexible Due to Aid Cuts

BK2204160991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Political commentary: "Vietnam's Stance on a Settlement of the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] When Vietnam sent troops to invade Cambodia, its main goal was to annex the country and incorporate it into the Indochinese federation under Hanoi's control. However, the Vietnamese attempt has been faced with opposition, condemnation, and pressure from the international community, as well as the unrelenting struggle carried on by the Cambodian people. This has caused Vietnam to suffer grave consequences and discouraged it in its hopes. Finally, Vietnam has agreed to a settlement of the Cambodian problem by allowing the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime to compromise with the Cambodian resistance movement and the United Nations to organize free elections in Cambodia.

Now Vietnam has also softened its stance, showing that it will likely relinquish the policy of aggression against Cambodia. Nevertheless, their consent is not from the bottom of the Vietnamese' hearts, wanting to see Cambodia as an independent country, but it is the fruit of the struggle conducted by the Cambodian people and of the pressure applied by the international community.

We believe that the cause, which has motivated Vietnam to do this, is concern for its own interests. Vietnam is attempting to end its isolation in the internatioanal arena. But in fact, it does not want to see Cambodia regaining its independence because this is in the Cambodians' interest.

Vietnam's flexible stance on the Cambodian problem at present is part of the Vietnamese strategy of aggression in Cambodia. Vietnam can kill two birds with one stone—it can circumvent international pressure and achieve its strategy of controlling Indochina at the same time.

Lately, we have seen that Vietnam has tried all-out to restore relations with the United States, China, Japan, and the ASEAN states, as well as other countries in Europe. Anyway, Vietnam has achieved nothing yet. Recently, Vietnam was faced with the same condition from the United States: It must first settle the Cambodian problem—that is, Vietnam must fulfill this condition beforehand, then all the countries will agree to resume relations with Vietnam later.

In sum, Vietnam's present flexible stance on the Cambodian problem is tantamount to Vietnam having its back to the wall, meaning that Vietnam is at an impasse now. In the past, Vietnam, with the Soviet Union as its backer, arrogantly challenged the international community. Now, as the Soviet Union has substantially reduced its aid, Vietnam has become humble. It has urged the Hun Sen group to enter the limelight and pretentiously behaved itself like an aged tiger. No matter what, the international community has already blown the cover off the Vietnamese. And Vietnam can only set itself free after the Cambodian problem is brought to a conclusion. In case the UN peace plan for Cambodia is not yet effectively implemented, the communist Heng Samrin regime will remain the instrument of the Vietnamese, and consequently Vietnam is still accountable for the Cambodian problem.

Laos

Phoun Sipaseut Speaks at Bangkok Ceremony

BK2304055591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Speech by Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, foreign minister, and head of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Government, delivered during the conferment of the Medal of Honor on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon in Bangkok on 17 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Your respected royal highness, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon; excellencies; ladies and gentlemen:

I am honored and pleased to have been assigned by His Excellency Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the republic, and His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to confer, on behalf of the Lao Government and people, the Medal of Honor, the highest distinction of the LPDR, on Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, for having made a tremendous spiritual and physical contribution to the strengthening of the brotherly and neighborly relations and friendship between Laos and Thailand.

Your royal highness, ladies, and gentlemen, as everyone knows, over a year ago, the Lao Government and multiethnic people had the high honor to welcome her royal highness, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, during her official friendship visit to the LPDR from 15 to 22 March 1990. During the brief but historic visit, your royal highness engaged in many activities and made statements which have nurtured the high esteem, friendship, solidarity, and brotherly and neighborly affection and strengthened the foundation of mutual trust between the Lao and Thai peoples. Although the visit took place over a year ago, the unforgettable gesture and statements of your royal highness still prevail in the hearts of the entire Lao people. A lasting impression of the visit was your royal highness' cordiality rendered to the Lao people in all localities. The entire Lao people were impressed by your royal highness' dictum that the Lao-Thai relations [words indistinct]. I regard that statement as a slogan that must be jointly observed by the Lao and Thai peoples, who share the same blood from the ancient time, so as to safeguard peace, friendship, and genuine brotherly and neighborly ties so that we can preserve forever the prosperity and the civilization left by our ancestors.

After the visit to Laos, your royal highness, despite pressing domestic and foreign concerns, wrote a book entitled, No Time To See Everything, about the visit, and gave lectures at many institutions on Lao arts, culture, and each period of Lao history.

Your royal highness, ladies, and gentlemen: Due to your royal highness' precious activities in further promoting the good relations between the two countries and peoples, and on the occassion of your royal highness' 36th birthday, the Supreme People's Assembly and LPDR Government proposed that the acting president of the LPDR issue a decree on the conferment of the Medal of Honor, the highest distinction of the LPDR, on your royal highness, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, as a sincere reward for the aforesaid virtuous deeds of your royal highness in the firm belief that this medal will forever develop and tighten the affection and friendship between the Lao and Thai peoples.

On this auspicious occasion and on the occasion of the Songkan and traditional new year festival of our two countries, I, on behalf of the Lao Government and people, wish His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, her majesty the queen, her royal highness, Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon, and all members of the royal family happiness, longevity, and prosperity. May the brotherly and neighborly relations and friendship between the Kingdom of Thailand and LPDR last forever.

LPRP Greets Cuban Counterpart on Founding Day

BK1904132991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Text] On 16 April, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] sent a congratulatory message to the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee [CPC CC].

The message reads:

On the 30th anniversary of the founding of the CPC, the LPRP CC, party members, the working class, and multiethnic people of Laos would like to convey our warm congratulations, salutations, and best wishes to the CPC CC and, through you comrades, to all party members, working class, and fraternal people of Cuba.

Through the implementation of the resolution adopted at the Third CPC Congress, the fraternal Cuban people have gradually won successes, thus bringing further socioeconomic development to the country and improving the material and moral life of the people.

All this reflects the initial successes on the path of construction and development in Cuba, thereby contributing to encouraging other peoples to struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the region and in the world.

On this auspicious occasion, we would like to express our wholehearted congratulations to the Cuban people for scoring important initial achievements. We regard these achievements as our own. May the CPC and the fraternal Cuban people win new and greater victories in implementing the resolution of the Third CPC Congress. We are confident that the friendly relations, solidarity, and cooperation between the two parties and peoples of Laos and Cuba will grow and develop further and be continually fruitful.

Vientiane Meeting Marks Lenin's Birthday

BK2304060791

[Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 0000 GMT on 23 April carries a 17-minute report with portions recorded on a "mass meeting organized by the

Laos-USSR Friendship Association at Vientiane Theater on the afternoon of 22 April" to mark Lenin's 121st birthday. "Attending the meeting were Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]; Comrade Georgiy Alekseyevich Rudov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos; comrade representatives of the LPRP Central Committee Foreign Relations Boards, mass organizations, and the Lao Front for National Construction Central Committee; and a large number of officials, state employees, workers, and Vientiane residents."

In his address, Comrade Bouathong, member of the LPRP Central Committee, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, and chairman of the Laos-USSR Friendship Association, describes Lenin's biography and "revolutionary struggle" to set up an association in 1895, whose aim was to "liberate the laboring people," and the establishment of the "Bolshevik Party by Lenin in 1903." "Under the leadership of this party headed by Lenin himself, the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia in 1914 won a brilliant success." Bouathong also notes the application of Marxism-Leninism by the communists in many countries throughout the world, including Laos. "Under the leadership of the LPRP—a party that firmly adheres to Marxism-Leninism as its compass—Laos has made gradual progress and development from being a colonial state without independence, to a country with independence and sovereignty whose people's living conditions are gradually being improved." He points out that while the Lao people are pursuing a policy of restructuring, "we must study, profoundly analyze, and extract excellent substance from this theory to resolve the numerous problems faced by Lao society at present." In conclusion, he pledges that while the Soviet people are implementing the resolution of the 28th CPSU Congress convened at a time of "difficulties and complexity in the USSR," the Lao people will "always stand side by side with the fraternal Soviet people in the cause of restructuring for the socialist ideals." He reaffirms that "the friendship relations and all-round cooperation between the two parties, governments, and peoples will be further strengthened."

Soviet Ambassador Rudov then addresses the meeting, hailing Lenin for his "great political works" and for being the "greatest thinker of the 20th Century." He points out difficulties faced by the Soviet people during the early stage of the implementation of "perestroyka" and a "thorough economic reform" in the USSR. At the end of his speech, the Soviet ambassador hails the LPRP for "firmly adhering to the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism" and for "correctly and creatively applying this theory to the reality in Laos."

Interior Minister Receives Outgoing PRC Envoy

BK1704093991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] On 11 April, Interior Minister A-sang Laoli received Liang Feng, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], who took leave of the minister after completing his four-year diplomatic service in the LPDR.

On this occasion, the interior minister thanked the outgoing PRC ambassador and hailed his positive contribution to the promotion, expansion, and daily improvement of the traditional friendship between the two parties, two states, and two peoples of Laos and China on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. He also expressed his conviction that the Lao-Chinese friendship relations will be further developed in the future. The minister wished the ambassador a good trip home.

Liang Feng Hosts Farewell Reception

BK2004124891 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL) - Mr. Liang Feng, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], and his wife in the evening of April 19 hosted a farewell reception to mark the end of his mission here.

Among guests of honour at the reception were Mr. Phoumi Vongvichit, advisor to the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee] and acting president of the republic, Mr. Saman Vik-gnaket, and Mr. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Politburo members of the LPRP CC, and other high-ranking officials. Diplomatic corps were also present on the occasion.

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives German, PRC Envoys

BK2204055091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 20 April, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received the courtesy-farewell calls respectively from the German and Chinese ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos.

Helmut Arndt was appointed German ambassador to Laos on 19 August 1988 and Liang Feng Chinese ambassador on 13 July 1988.

During the calls, the chairman of the Council of Ministers hailed the two envoys for contributing to strengthening the relations and cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and their respective countries. The host and the guests also exchanged views on certain international issues related to each side.

Philippines

'Final Round' of Bases Talks To Begin 30 Apr

HK2304053491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 23 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Arthur I. Cariuad, Jose H. Macaspac III, and Diony Tubianosa]

[Text] The sixth and final round of bases negotiations between the Philippines and the United States will resume in Manila next week after a long stand-off on the issues of compensation and duration.

U.S. and Philippine negotiators hope to conclude an agreement on a new military bases treaty by then, a U.S. official said. "We hope to initial an agreement by the end of the negotiations next week," the official, who did not want to be identified, said in a telephone interview.

Chief U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage will arrive next Monday and resume talks with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, the official said. The sixth round of talks between negotiating panels of the two countries will begin the following day.

A well-placed source at the Department of Foreign Affairs also said both panels agreed to convene on April 29 after Washington sent "positive feelers" for the early resolution of the compensation impasse. He said both panels will meet on Thursday to map out the final contour of a mutually acceptable compensation formula.

The information came even as the government's planned information campaign on the proposed treaty gained support from former Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago and the Governors League of the Philippines headed by Bulacan Governor Roberto Pagdanganan.

Senator Wigberto Tanada, however, warned that the U.S. should refrain from engaging in any information campaign on the bases treaty, claiming this violates the Filipino's collective right to conduct a free and independent foreign policy. Tanada was reacting to news reports quoting U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt that the American government would participate in the information drive being planned by the Aquino administration.

Aside from this, Tanada also said that U.S. involvement in the information drive could be interpreted as a violation of the United Nations Charter which prohibits intervention in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of the Philippines. Tanada, a leader of the anti-bases bloc in the Senate, is expected to block the ratification of any new bases treaty.

President Aquino had announced that the government would launch an information campaign to advocate acceptance of the treaty she will enter into with the U.S. "Ambassador Platt would be better off advised to lay off the information drive on the treaty if he does not want the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. relations to further deteriorate," Tanada wanred in a statement.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager denied the reports, however, that his office would participate in the nationwide consultation campaign for the proposed treaty before the same is submitted to the Senate for ratification. He said that the consultation process was an internal affair of the Philippine government. He added that the embassy would participate only when the government seeks its counsel.

Several senators downgraded Mrs Aquino's plan to campaign in the Senate for a proposed treaty extending the stay of the military bases. Mrs Aquino has said she will campaign for a treaty extending the stay of the bases after their lease expires in September. The majoirty of the senators, however, have already declared their opposition to the proposal.

Any extension of the bases lease must be approved by two-thirds of the Senate which has become highly critical of Mrs Aquino in recent years. "We shall see if her personal appeal will have an effect on the senators... but our minds are made up," said Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Senate minority floorleader Juan Ponce Enrile, head of the rightist opposition, said: "I doubt if that personal appeal would save the day for the treaty. All we need to reject it is eight (senators)."

"I suggest Mrs. Aquino run (for re-election in the 1992 polls) and use the bases issue as a platform. Let's see if she will win," he said.

Senator Rene Saguisag, a former spokesman for Mrs. Aquino, who has since turned against her on most issues, said "Cory (Aquino's) campaign will not help."

Mrs. Aquino's brother-in-law, Senator Agapito Aquino, who also opposes the presence of the U.S. bases, said: "I do not want to openly oppose the President's wishes but she is aware of my stand on the bases."

The Philippine panel has demanded an $825 million compensation package for the new treaty which consists of $400 million in hard component and $425 million in soft component made up of non-budgetary items such as increased trade access and a debt-reduction/condonation scheme. The U.S. side has offered $360 million money package in exchange for a 10-12 years transition period.

Aside from compensation, both sides still remain apart on duration, with the Philippines standing pat on its seven-year period and the U.S. still battling for a 10 to 12 years phasedown period. Reports said that President Aquino was open to allow the Americans a longer duration provided the "price is right." The Philippine panel has always said that the government wants $400 million hard cash, free of conditionalities and comes regularly which would be used to fund the various development projects of the government.

In Olongapo, Mayor Richard J. Gordon said the Philippines stood to lose some $70 million because the Aquino government has failed to implement Economic Support Fund [ESF] projects, claiming that a statement from the ESF Secretariat disputing the mayor's contention "is befuddling the issue."

"The issue is not whether or not the ESF Secretariat has already programmed or fully obligated its fund allocation from total ESF committed by the U.S. government," Gordon emphasized. "The issue is the crass inability of the Aquino government to spend ESF money. The ESF claim that it has fully programmed its fund allocation is useless, unless programmed projects are translated into contracts. It is clear that it is already too late to start projects which need 18 months to complete," Gordon pointed out.

The mayor also said that even the $20 million earmarked by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for earthquake assistance has not yet been utilized. As of February 1991, only $1 million has been obligated for four contracts, when the full disbursement of the entire project should have been completed by October 22, 1991.

Pagdanganan said that the Governors League will support the President's call for a consultation before the signed agreement is submitted to the Senate for ratification. "Once an agreement has been reached, ask the people and seek their opinion on the matter and we believe that the Senate should be guided by whatever should come out from this consultation," Pagdanganan said after meeting with the President. "Once the President signs it (treaty), and agrees with it, in all probability, the governors will support the President," the Bulacan governor added.

Defensor-Santiago, for her part, said "The Constitution provides for a system of initiative and referendum, which is a species of public consultations. Hence, President Aquino's proposal for public consultations on the RP-U.S. treaty is compatible with the spirit of the Constitution."

Editorial on Bases Treaty 'Made in U.S.A.'

HK2304054091 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Apr 19 p 4

[Editorial: "A Seeming Desperation To Forge Bases Treaty"]

[Text] By their latest actuations, the country's top officials appear to have been panicked into setttling for any kind of treaty to replace the current RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement.

In the past few weeks, our chief negotiator, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, has been frantically asking his American counterpart, Richard Armitage, to please answer his letter setting forth the Philippine positions on the sticky issues of how long the U.S. will keep their facilities and how much it will pay for their use.

Over the weekend, President Aquino denied the negotiations were stalemated on the two issues and expressed confidence a new pact would be concluded before September. She announced that she would lead the effort to muster enough votes in the Senate to ratify a new treaty. She also said the government would proceed with its plan to hold public consultations on the agreement, saying it has an "obligation" to tell the people "what this treaty is all about, if indeed we will have a treaty signed."

Notwithstanding Ms. Aquino's feeble attempt to qualify her endorsement, it won't come as a surprise if it turns out that the two parties have agreed to a new treaty in principle. It seems to many that the President has endorsed a blank check on which the U.S. is free to write the terms of a new agreement.

Another hint that a new bases agreement might have already been concluded is the return of Armitage. A source privy to the negotiations has said that Armitage, who had softened up the ground by ignoring Manglapus' pleas and conveniently breaking an ankle, is finally coming to Manila next Monday. He had vowed earlier not to return to the Philippines except to initial a new agreement.

The way things look, the Philippines will have a treaty completely "Made in U.S.A." It will most likely provide for an extendable 10-year "phasedown period" during which the U.S. president promises to exert his "best efforts" to get congressional approval for $320 million a year in financial assistance to the Philippines.

Those terms are not much better than those the U.S. extracted from a nation that lay prostrate after the last World War, but the administration is so desperate it would even bend the Constitution to ram the treaty through the Senate. While the fundamental law provides that any referendum on a new treaty should be held only after the Senate has ratified it, the administration is working around it by calling for "public consultations" before ratification.

Ms. Aquino has of course taken pains to explain that the outcome of such consultations would be non-binding on the Senate. But the intent is clear: to pressure the senators into voting for a new treaty. After talking to the President in Malacanang yesterday, Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan revealed the administration's game plan by telling reporters: "The Senate should probably be guided, like most of us in the government, by what people believe because after all the government is not the master, but is the creation of the people."

It may not matter now to an Executive that feels hostage to America's wishes, but the Senate must be reminded that more than dollars and cents are at stake in a new bases treaty and that there are values worth preserving and promoting, like our people's pride and dignity and national honor and sovereignty. A treaty that fails to recognize the true worth of the bases, a treaty that preserves the unequal partnership between the Philippines and the United States and does not provide mutual benefit is not worthy of the serious consideration of our people or of the Senate.

Aquino Promises Aid for Iraq's Kurdish Refugees

HK2304055891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 21 Apr 91 p 2

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino expressed yesterday concern over the plight of Kurdish and other refugees fleeing Iraq, and promised to send them some form of assistance.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mrs. Aquino said, "The Philippine government views with grave concern the current human crisis in West Asia—the suffering of Kurdish and other refugees fleeing into Iran and other countries, because of the action of Iraqi forces."

Appealing for international assistance to the refugees, she said: "It is fervently hoped that hostilities in the region will come to a speedy conclusion, and that relief efforts directed at the alleviation of the plight of these refugees will enjoy the support of the world community."

"The Philippine government will avail of all means within its resources to help relieve the sufferings of the refugees," Mrs Aquino said.

Malacanang officials said the Department of Health was determining the kind of assistance the Philippines would send. It was held unlikely, however, that a medical mission, such as that sent to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf crisis, would be contemplated.

The President's reaction to the Kurdish problem followed a controversial decision of the United States, Britain and France to send troops to northern Iraq to protect the fleeing refugees. Iraq had condemned the deployment of troops, saying this constituted intervention in a domestic affair.

Kurdish attempts to carve a separate homeland out of Iraq were renewed after the defeat of Iraq in the battle against multinational forces led by the U.S. Kurds make up 17 percent of the Iraqi population.

Japan To Finance More Infrastructure Projects

HK2304085291 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 23 Apr 91 p 9

[Text] Japan has agreed to finance more infrastructure projects in the country, including the expansion of the Light Railway Transit [LRT] system, improvements in the shipping industry and the establishment of industrial plants and power transmissions in the countryside, according to Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos.

Orbos said funding for the projects will be coursed through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [OECF], one of the agencies through which Japan channels its aid to third world countries.

Orbos met Sunday with Mitsuhiro Sasanuma, president of the OCEF Overseas Investment Management Corp. in Japan, where the Executive Secretary was scheduled to meet with government officials and businessmen during his six-day private visit.

Orbos promised to push for faster implementation of OECF-funded projects in the country, as foreign creditors have often complained of the slow pace of doing business locally. At the same time, Orbos noted the OECF's interest in the Philippines "as an important country in terms of the development of the Asia-Pacific region."

Among the major OECF-funded projects are the interchanges along EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue], the rehabilitation of the North and South Philippine National Railways line and fishing ports in various provinces.

Orbos said Japan was willing to finance more projects including the construction of an elevated expressway linking the North and South Expressways, the expansion of the LRT I, the construction of LRT II, the establishment of industrial plants in San Fernando, La Union, Zambales and Cagayan, the modernization of domestic shipping and the setting up of power transmission lines for Leyte and Samar.

The Executive Secretary however noted that OECF has concentrated its funding on infrastructure projects and suggested that part of the funds be channelled instead to education. Orbos also urged Japan to use its technological capabilities to contribute substantially—through television and computers—to education development projects.

Chance To Recover Marcos' Wealth 'Very Slim'

HK2204054991 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Mariquit Almario]

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga caused the Aquino government to lose the chance to recover some $213 million alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family due to his error in judgment when he was still chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), a House committee report concluded.

The report, prepared by the special committee on public accountability of the House of Representatives, also established that the Aquino government's chance to ever recover very alleged ill-gotten wealth is very slim unless it enters into a compromise deal with the Marcoses.

Salonga, asked by NEWSDAY to comment on the House report, said, "Operation Big Bird would have been the biggest scam in history had it materialized. That is why I refused to authorize it. Even the Swiss lawyers said that had it been authorized it would have been the biggest international 'sting.'"

After several months of conducting hearings on the "Operation Big Bird," a government top secret operation launched in 1986, the committee, headed by Rep. Victorico Chaves (LDP, [Struggle of Philippine Democrats] Misamis Oriental), submitted its final report to Speaker Ramon Mitra late last year. The objective of the operation, handled by the PCGG, was to identify and recover the assets of the family of the late president Ferdinand Marcos which were deposited in Swiss banks.

The report, however, has not been calendared by the House committee on rules which is chaired by Rep. Francisco Sumulong (LDP, Rizal), President Aquino's uncle. By not being calendared by the House committee on rules, the committee report was not discussed on the floor and has been unacted upon.

Congressional sources said that the committee report is being kept by Mitra, a presidential aspirant, because he is waiting for the "right time" to expose the mismanagement of Salonga, who is a presidential rival.

The findings of the committee showed that some $213 million in Marcos assets was allowed to be transferred from a Swiss Bank to an Austrian bank under the account of the Philippine government. The report also said that Salonga gave directions to Dr. Sergio Salvioni, Dr. Moritz Luenberger and Guy Fontanet, the Swiss lawyers hired by the PCGG to recover the assets, to change the order of payment allowing the transfer of the assets to the Austrian bank.

In a separate documentation on the trip of Chaves and Reps. Dante Tinga (LDP, Taguig) and Jose Rono (NP [Nacionalista Party], Samar) to Switzerland last year, the committee members cited Salvioni as saying that the order of payment was changed because the Swiss lawyers "did not trust" Michael de Guzman, owner of the Austrian Bank who was an alleged Marcos crony also hired by the PCGG to help in the operation. The report found out that the change in the order of payment allowed Mrs. Marcos to ask the Swiss bank to re-freeze the assets, resulting in the failure of the whole operation. The committee questioned the PCGG's employment of the Swiss lawyers who were also Members of the Swiss Parliament.

The report noted that the Swiss lawyers would first protect the interests of the Swiss banks rather than those of the Philippine government. "The ultimate beneficiary of the entire exercise will be the Swiss banks .... The government cannot hope to recover whatever is in excess of $400 million which it has not identified. On the other hand, the Marcoses cannot hope to be allowed to withdraw the funds as the Swiss banks can claim that the funds are frozen under an order of general freeze of all their deposits," the report stated.

Based on testimonies of top government officials during the congressional inquiry into the operation, the committee stated that it was able to identify at least $7.5 billion Marcos assets in Switzerland, $4.5 billion of which has already been documented. But the Swiss lawyers claimed that Marcos deposits were estimated at only $400 million including the $213 million, the report said.

To be able to recover some of the alleged ill-gotten wealth, the committee recommended in the report that all legal proceedings with the Swiss courts be stopped and the Aquino government enter into an amicable agreement with the Marcos family. "We have to optimize what the government can recover out of the Marcos deposits in Switzerland. We feel that the only way to achieve this objective soonest is to negotiate with the Marcos family. Otherwise both the Philippine government and the Marcos family will come out losers and the only winner will be the Swiss banking system," the report stated. It also added that another option that the government could take would be to issue an appeal "for world opinion against the Swiss banking system."

The committee also recommended that the government negotiate with parties involved in the operation to be able to identify all Marcos assets deposited in various banks all over the world. A compromise deal with the Marcoses, was, however, the recommendation being pushed by the committee, claiming that the government cannot even be certain that it would at all recover any of the Marcos assets in Switzerland if legal proceedings continue.

Estrada Forms New Party, Introduces Running Mate

HK2304085891 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 20 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Text] Senator Joseph Estrada yesterday petitioned the Commission on Elections [Comelec] to accredit his Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP [Party of the Pilipino Masses]) as a political party eligible to field a candidate in the 1992 presidential elections.

The actor-turned politician is the president of the new party and is expected to be its presidential candidate next year.

At a press conference where the media and hordes of supporters trooped to the Comelec office in Intramuros yesterday, Estrada also introduced to the media a Cebu businessman—Antonio V.A. Garcia de Escano—who is reported to be his 1992 runningmate. Escano is a member of the Cebu provincial board. His family is prominent in the shipping and local utility industry.

Expounding on the PMP's platform, Estrada who placed sixth among the 24 winners in the 1987 senatorial elections, said his party was "pro-Filipino and pro-poor." This is a party, he said, that will strive for national unity, "a party that envisions a government responsive to the needs of the people."

"Our party's program is practical and one that can easily be understood and appreciated by our countrymen," said Estrada as he stressed that the PMP would work towards the enjoyment of democracy by the board sector of the masses and not by the few who are privileged. He added that because of the failure of the country's leadership to attend to the people, "we have failed to unite and grow as a people and nation."

Conspicuously absent in the PMP program of government circulated yesterday was Estrada's known aversion to foreign economic domination of the country and the presence of the United States military facilities here. When asked about this, a source close to the senator said this line would be explained and developed soon after the party shall have started its campaign for its 1992 candidates.

Estrada has been rated high in several national surveys on the chances of the so-called 1992 "presidentiables" although he has been tentative about his presidential plans. Many said he was really after the vice presidency, under any party that may draft him for the No. 2 post.

Earlier this year, he shocked political circles when he bolted the Liberal Party of Senate President Jovito Salonga on the excuse that the latter was not receptive to his vice presidential plans under the LP [Liberal Party] banner. It was his second time while in the Senate to leave a party. Shortly after winning in the 1987 senatorial polls, he also abandoned the oppositionist Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) under which he won as a senator.

Escano, in a brief statement, explained that his joining the PMP was because of Estrada's "bias for the poor and his nationalist visions."

"While the party's program is geared towards the welfare of the masses, this will not be done at the expense of business and industry," he said adding that as a businessman he can contribute to the attainment of the PMP objectives. He released a personal resume showing that he is a father of three, a long time Cebu City resident, a business administration graduate and a Master of Economics. He sits as officer or director in at least five corporations including the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company.

Generals Warn of 'Disillusionment' in Military

HK2304081391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

[By Fe Zamora]

[Excerpts] A number of Armed Forces generals yesterday expressed concern over the apointment of Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia as AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff and Maj. Gen. Arturo Enrile as Army chief, and described their appointments as setbacks to a program to professionalize the AFP.

While the two are "fine officers," they lack field experience, said the senior officers, who asked not to be identified. They also warned of "disillusionment" within the military if the apparent disregard for military rules in selecting commanders remained "uncorrected."

The officers from Classes '59, '60 and '61 of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] who expressed their reservations during informal meetings, however gave assurances that they were not "plotting" anything. The reservations came on the heels of an escalating word war between Abadia and Maj. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, former AFP deputy chief of staff, who resigned to protest Abadia's appointment.

Aguirre said President Aquino used "partisan political considerations" and not merit and performance as basis for naming the new AFP chief of staff. He promised to "tell the whole truth" to the Commission on Appointments when it convenes to decide Abadia's fate. "I will give adequate details for the Commission to make an enlightened judgment," Aguirre said. [passage omitted]

The Abadia-Enrile appointments involved more than "seniority" as perceived by the public, the generals said. The senior officers said they do not mind being bypassed if the choices had really been "outstanding." But both Abadia and Ernile, they said, had never commanded a division or an area despite a career management program adopted in 1986 which urged officers to take field commands and certain courses as prerequisites to their promotion. Not a few senior colonels had to go back to school and to the field afterwards to satisfy the requiremnets meant to professionalize the AFP, they said.

But Abadia's highest field command was as brigade commander for three months in Northen Luzon, the generals said. Abadia was AFP deputy chief of operations before Ms Aquino named him Army chief in January. Enrile's highest field command was as commander of Task Force Scoda in Central Mindanao from 1982 to 1985, according to the officers. He was superintendent of the PMA before his appointment as Army chief. "Now, how are we going to explain this to the young officers whom we have been trying to educate that the bata-bata [old boy] system is old hat? they said.

The officers added that President Aquino was "ill-advised" or was not informed about the real qualifications of the two officers. "We respect her prerogatives as president, but this should also be tempered with responsibility," a general at Camp Aguinaldo said.

But Abadia defended his lack of command experience, citing (former AFP chief of staff) Gen. Renato de Villa's words that he (Abadia) "could contribute to the AFP more as J-3 (AFP deputy chief of staff for operations)" than as area field commander. "These are changing times. We are also trying to refine this promotion system," Abadia said of the ongoing programs to professionalize the AFP promotion scheme.

Military Leadership Ratifies 'Code of Ethics'

HK2304083091 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Apr 91 p 4

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Lt. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, new AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, and other senior officers of the AFP General Headquarters (GHQ) voted yesterday for the ratification of the new AFP Code of Ethics.

During a staff conference at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Abadia said the new Code of Ethics will serve as a bible to govern every soldier's official, moral, social and legal actions. The new AFP Code of Ethics was prepared during a four-month convention by 109 delegates, Abadia said. Several teams of military men will soon launch an information campaign in various military units for its final ratification.

Abadia said that while the new Code of Ethics will boost the people's belief that the soldiers and the military are good, it will also "propel them to greater heights of service to God, country, and the citizens."

The new Code of Ethics is designed to ensure that the military organization wil be worthy of public trust and respect, be faithful to its constitutional mandate as protector of the people, and help preserve the sovereignty of the State, the democratic institutions, and the integrity of national territory, he added. "With the ratification of the Code of Ethics, it is expected that the AFP wil be a professional military institution worthy of the people's trust and support," Abadia said.

The AFP Code of Ethics is also expected to impose greater discipline on officers and soldiers in and out of the battlefield to draw the people's respect and trust, other AFP officers said. The information drive on the AFP Code of Ethics will include open forum sessions so that officers and men can be enlightened on its various provinces, they added.

Police Overrun NPA Camp in Mindoro 20 Apr

HK2304083291 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 21 Apr 91 pp 1, 20

[By Robert Evora]

[Text] Calapan, Oriental Mindoro—Government forces overran yesterday a 10-hectare base of communist rebels on the mountainous boundary of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro after a seven-day surveillance.

Senior Supt. Edmundo Aquino, Oriental Mindoro Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, said the New People's Army (NPA) camp was hit by police forces from Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and the two Mindoro provinces organized in search-and-destroy operations.

Aquino said that the NPA rebels had already fled the camp situated between Mt. Hood and Mt. Roosevelt, southwest of Bongabon town in Oriental Mindoro when ground forces led by Capt. Artemio Hicban of the Batangas PNP reached it. The camp has a cemented helipad, training facilities, 27 nipa huts, communist documents, obstacle forces machine gun towers, and 45 bunkers.

Aquino said the ground forces were supported by eight helicoper gunships from the 15th Strike Wing, the 205th Helicopter Wing, and the Composito Air Support Force of the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

It was the second NPA camp captured by police forces this month and the biggest so far. The first was a five-hectare NPA base in sitio Makura, barangay Camurong, Abra de Ilog, in Occidental Mindoro. Both camps were fully equipped with guerrilla warfare facilities, including a helipad.

Meanwhile, Senior Supt. Rogelio Aguana, Army task force Mina de Oro commander, launched Operation Salubong to rescue five soldiers abducted last April 9 by communist guerrillas in sitio Sigao, barangay Lisat, in Bongabon town. Aguana directed Aquino and Supt. Munlab Abdula of Occidental Mindoro PNP to intensify the search for Capt. Enrico Salabong, 205th commander officer, and Technical Sergeants Rolando Javier, Yolando Soverano, Cesar Garcia, and Jesus Maceda.

Rebel Leader Says NPA Receiving Foreign Aid

HK2304081191 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By O. Masaganda]

[Text] Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA), have been receiving support from foreign countries in the form of cash, firearms and ammunition, according to a rebel leader caputred in Agutaya, Palawan.

The NPA leader was identified as Efren Rodrigo, alias "Allan Rodriguez" and "Ka [Comrade] Pepe," member of the national political and social committee of the CPP-NPA.

Rodrigo also told Superintendent Evaristo G. Carino, Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 4 director, that the series of raids on PNP and other military establishments was part of the "summer offensive" launched so that the CPP-NPA can get aid from foreign countries whose identities were withheld. Rodrigo said that if the local CPP-NPA had "no accomplishments," little foreign support was received. Since last January, the CPP-NPA staged raids on government installations in Luzon, Visavas and Mindanao.

Last march, NPA rebels attacked some Army and PNP detachments in Cagayan, killing 11 PNP troopers and one officer, and in Lacub, Abra, and Kalinga-Apayao. In Dagawait, Surigao del Sur, some 500 NPA rebels raided the 426th PC [Philippine Constabulary] Company last Feb. 17 but the 46-man government force led by Lt. Elmer Sillador defended the camp, killing some 30 rebels. On the other hand, NPA rebels suffered many casualties as a result of government operations.

Last Tuesday, PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno flew to Mindoro Oriental and Occidental and was briefed on the latest developments in the anti-insurgency campaign. Carino informed Nazareno that PNP troops overran an NPA camp which has a helipad, indicating that the rebels were using helicopters in their operations. Carino said that a helicopter reportedly landed in barangay Morta, San Jose, Mindoro Occidental, and that he had sent men to verify the report that the aircraft, believed to be of foreign origin, dropped firearms and ammunition.

Thailand

Official: U.S. MIA Office in SRV 'Constructive'

BK2304103491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 22 (AFP)—Thailand welcomed Monday U.S. plans to open an office in Vietnam, saying it would help bring about peace in war-torn Cambodia.

Washington's decision to open an office in Hanoi to resolve cases of U.S. servicemen still missing in action (MIA) from the Vietnam war was "constructive," a senior official said. "The move is likely to strengthen the chances of peace in this region, particularly in Cambodia," Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa told reporters after meeting here with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai.

The United States and Vietnam announced Saturday that Washington is to open a temporary office in Hanoi, marking the first U.S. official presence in Vietnam since the fall of the South Vietnamese Government in 1975.

Thailand serves as a conduit for assistance to the Beijing-backed Marxist Khmer Rouge and their non-communist partners in a guerrilla coalition fighting the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh. China also helps the Khmer Rouge's two smaller non-communist partners, which receive non-lethal assistance from the United States.

Mr. Le Mai also had a meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin during which the Thai official accepted an invitation to visit Vietnam, Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said, adding that dates for the visit still had to be worked out.

During the meeting, Mr. Asa urged that Vietnam play "a more constructive role in solving the Cambodian problem," Mr. Sakthip said. Mr. Le Mai told reporters that the talks had been "constructive and very useful."

Mr. Witthaya said the discussions had also touched on a planned visit to Thailand by Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi.

Radio on Normalizing U.S.-SRV Ties, Cambodia

BK2304104491 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Article: "United States' Hope for Cambodia Brightens"]

[Text] United States' General John Vessey and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach issued a joint statement in Hanoi last Saturday, stating that Washington has agreed to set up a temporary office to solve cases of American soldiers missing in the Vietnam war. This move has marked two critical points in modern politics. First of all, if the office is opened it will be the first United States presence since the old United States Consulate in Hanoi closed on 12 December 1955 following the French defeat in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu, which brought an end to French rule in Indochina.

Secondly, diplomats say it is an indicator of normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations. Vietnam, one of the world's poorest countries, has long requested financial aid from the international community. However, Vietnam's need has been obstructed by United States sanctions, which indirectly discourage other Western countries to provide assistance to Vietnam.

Washington, nevertheless, has its own reasons. It has fixed conditions for Hanoi to accept a United Nations peace plan for Cambodia, settlement of the MIA issue, and the release of former south Vietnamese officials still in custody before full normalization between the two countries takes place.

Under the United Nations peace proposal, Washington will not fully normalize ties with Hanoi until the United Nations plan is implemented, the Cambodian Army and coalition government's resistance forces are disarmed, elections are held, and the new national assembly is formed. Vietnam, however, reveals that it wants normalization without preconditions, including a linkage to the Cambodian conflict in which it still supports the Phnom Penh regime. U.S. officials, nonetheless, [words indistinct] of painstaking diplomacy, have (?edged) the parties to the Cambodian civil war within sight of the breakthrough that could end one of Asia's longest and bloodiest conflicts.

The mechanism by which Washington hopes the 12-year war may be ended is the plan endorsed by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to disarm the warring parties and hold United Nations-supervised elections. After endless meetings and discussions, most of the interested parties have decided to support the plan. But two key players—the communist regime in Phnom Penh and its backers in Vietnam—have still not (?signed on). The United States is trying to coax them into the process by offering Vietnam much needed economic and diplomatic benefit in exchange for Cambodian cooperation.

If Hanoi delivers a Cambodia agreement and clears up a number of nagging issues still left over from the Vietnam War, the United States says it will lift its trade embargo, allow Vietnam to raise much needed foreign loans, and normalize diplomatic ties within two years.

Initial reactions from Vietnam, which just received a senior delegation from Washington to discuss missing soldiers and normalizing relations, have been tough. U.S. officials believe a heated debate is underway in Hanoi over how to respond. The United States has sharply shifted its position in a number of ways to make a package more palatable to Vietnam and to Phnom Penh Leader Hun Sen. Most dramatically, the United States suspended some 20 million U.S. dollars in aid to the noncommunist coalition fighting the Hun Sen regime because of reports saying that they have cooperated militarily with the Khmer Rouge. Washington also made three other small shifts in its position. It said it did not insist on the dismantling of the Hun Sen regime before election. It laid out the program for the gradual disarming of the parties to the war, and it expressed its determination not to allow genocide to recur in Cambodia. But, even U.S. Assistant Secratry of State Richard Solomon has admitted that holding elections in which the Khmer Rouge will participate represented the best chance of keeping them out of power. It is expected that if a political peace settlement is not reached and if military conflict continues, the Phnom Penh regime will gradually weaken. Therefore, the answer for the comprehensive peace settlement in Cambodia is to include the Khmer Rouge in the peace framework.

Now it comes to the point that Cambodia peace talks is stalemated because both Phnom Penh regime and Vietnamese backers reluctantly accepted the United Nations peace plan for fearing that they may lose their powers. Political analysts pointed that the Vietnamese are playing a waiting game and [words indistinct].

While the United States wants to settle this problem in any way it can just to have it over with, the United States does not have any strategy interests in Cambodia. But, it does have a moral interest not to leave this conflict as a bleeding ulcer. For that, the best way to (?get over) with Cambodian conflict is to put harder pressure on Vietnam to accept the United Nations peace plan. At present, Vietnam is really in need for economic assistance from the international community. This should be the best opportunity to divert Vietnam from the old dragging tactic and make it realize the fact that unless Vietnam supports the United Nations peace process, (?she would never receive) normalization and assistance from Western countries.

Asa Urges SRV 'Constructive Role' in Cambodia

BK2304012191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin yesterday called on Vietnam to play a constructive role in solving the Cambodian conflict.

Thai-Vietnamese relations and Cambodia will be the two prime issues discussed at a crucial session today between visiting Vietnamese Foreign Vice-Minister Le Mai, and Foreign Affairs permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa following a round yesterday on regional and international affairs.

Mr Le Mai yesterday morning called on Mr Asa, who accepted an invitation to visit Vietnam at a date expected to be announced today. According to spokesman Sakthip Krairoek, the Foreign Minister asked Vietnam to play a constructive role in the Cambodian settlement because Thailand would like to see peace and prosperity in the region.

Mr Le Mai also sent Mr Asa best regards from Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, the spokesman said. "We reaffirmed that Thailand adheres to the direction of building good ties and contacts with Vietnam," Mr Witthaya said.

This latest round of consultations carries forward preparations to culminate in the visit to Bangkok of Vietnamese Prime Minister Do Muoi. The proposal for the Vietnamese Premier's visit to Thailand dates from the Chatchai Chunhawan administration. While the plan is still proceeding, Thailand needs time to make the event fruitful.

Today's session will emphasise reaching a framework, such as a joint commission to streamline bilateral contacts. In the past, the two countries have let bilateral contacts evolve along a natural course, and now there is a need for a framework for relations to proceed smoothly.

Minister on Improving Economic Ties With Vietnam

BK2104050691 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 21 Apr 91

["News in Perspective" feature]

[Text] On the economic basis, Vietnam is considered more important to Thailand than other Indochinese countries, and it is rich in natural resources and has a market of over 60 million consumers.

In his speech on economic trends of Indochinese countries, Deputy Agriculture Minister Khosit Panpiamrat said that if Thailand can guide economic policies of Vietnam and create commendable economic relations with that country it may trigger remarkable benefits to the Thai economy. Mr. Khosit said that Vietnam's economy can grow at a very rapid pace if it is given enough time and appropriate policies. So far, Vietnam has adapted its economic policies to be more open to foreign investors, but little achievement has been made because of its internal political problems. As a result, it needs more time to gear up its economic growth. Besides, Vietnam still holds a certain advantage in terms of human resources with high competency and low wages. It is therefore a good opportunity for Vietnam to progressively develop its country with a speedy growth in the future.

In the long run, there are many indicators that Vietnam might achieve labor-intensive industries or other agricultural productions. Vietnam thus will become a major competitor for Thailand. And to avoid competing with Vietnam and for Thailand's benefit, Mr. Khosit said that Thailand should first create good relations with that country. In this regard, he said Thailand should establish policies to encourage Thai investors to transfer their production bases to Vietnam. Mr. Khosit added that although many countries want to have their production bases transferred to Vietnam, Vietnam is not yet ready to promote economic relations with any country due to its political problems. However, some economic adjustments are now underway in that country. Opportunity for Thailand to enter into an economic role with Vietnam should therefore start from what Vietnam is interested in. At present, it is apparent that Vietnam requires a great deal of capital and knowledge.

According to the Board of Investment, Thai businessmen can invest in Vietnam in the form of joint ventures. The agency is compiling a list of various types of industries in Vietnam to seek opportunities for Thai businessman to invest in that country. The hotel industry is likely in the priority area for Thai investors in Vietnam as Thai businessmen have expertise in the hotel related business. The two countries earlier agreed to cooperate in developing the fishing, shipyard, cold storage, processing, fishmeal, canning, and agricultural industries.

Although many foreign investors have visited Vietnam for talks on the setting up of joint ventures, Thai investors stand a good chance when compared with foreign investors because of geographical location and the short travel time between the two countries.

Radio Summarizes Meeting With SRV Officials

BK2204142391 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Speaking to correspondents after this morning's meeting between Thai and Vietnamese officials at the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Witthaya Wetchachiwa said the meeting proceeded in a good atmosphere and that bilateral and regional issues were discussed. He said bilateral relations and the Cambodian problem are the main purposes of the meeting, and these issues will be discussed tomorrow.

Regarding Thai-Vietnamese relations, Witthaya said the Vietnamese prime minister's visit will be discussed. To make the visit beneficial to bilateral relations and ensure smooth Thai-Vietnamese relations and cooperation, it is necessary to set the scope of and regulate economic and trade relations, because to date they have been lacking and have involved largely the private sector. Greater cooperation at the governmental level is desirable.

Regarding regional issues, Witthaya said the world situation was discussed. The international economic problems and the superpowers' role in world peace have become more important since the Gulf war.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai reported on his meeting with the Thai side, saying both sides understood each other better. The international, regional, Cambodian, and bilateral issues were discussed with the Thai side.

Cross-Border Trade With Cambodia To Resume

BK2304010791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet—High-ranking Thai and Heng Samrin officials agreed yesterday that cross-border trading points between Poipet and this border town could open in the middle of June.

In the first official Thai-Cambodian trade talks inside the war-torn country, the Thai officials were invited to meet the Heng Samrin officials in Poipet. They discussed an initiative to open temporary border trade points at Khlong Luek on the Thai side of border and Poipet on the Cambodian side. The border trading points, closed over the past 16 years, are expected to open again around June 15 after landmines on both sides of the border have been taken away and preparations are made to set up trading stalls. On the Thai side at Khlong Luek, about 2,100 stalls will be available for Aranyaprathet residents to rent at 100 to 120 baht a month.

Thai officials attending yesterday's meeting included Prachinburi governor Pramuan Rutchanaseri, Burapha Force deputy commanders Niphon Parannit and Prawit Wongsuwan, Customs officials and police officers. The Heng Samrin officials included Commerce Minister and Deputy Defence Minister El Vansarat, Deputy Interior Minister Iad Ti Rua [name as published], Fourth Army Region commander Long Sophead and Banteay Mencheay chief It Loeu.

Mr Pramuan said the meeting was held in a "happy atmosphere" and Heng Samrin forces would speedily dispose of landmines in the Poipet border area. Details of the cross-border trading points are to be worked out by local or district-level officials of the two sides, the Governor said. Immigration officials will handle border passes and Customs officials will take care of taxes at the border market, he said.

Sources said Heng Samrin authorities would export more Cambodian goods, particularly timber, through the border passes rather than export by sea through Koh Kong province. "The Heng Samrin regime understands that exporting by road or railway (through Thailand) should be more convenient than by sea (through Koh Kong) in the future," one source said.

As the talks were held, sounds of gunfire and mortar shelling between warring factions inside Cambodia could be heard in Aranyaprathet.

AFP Reports Further

BK2204163391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 22 (AFP)—Thailand and civil war-torn Cambodia agreed Monday to open official cross-border trade after 16 years of shady black-marketeering, a senior Thai official said.

Governor Pramual Rotchanaseri of eastern Thailand's border province of Prachinburi said the agreement was reached in talks with Cambodian Commerce Minister Nhim Vanda, who is also a deputy defense minister.

The landmark trade talks were held in the Cambodian border town of Poipet and attended by military officers responsible for border security on both sides, he said.

Mr. Pramual said two trading posts would be opened on June 15, one in Poipet and the other in Klong Luk in Aranyaprathet District on the Thai side, restoring official cross-border trade between the two towns for the first time since 1975, when the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge took power in Phnom Penh. Klong Luk and Poipet are linked by a disused bridge.

The Khmer Rouge, ousted by Vietnam in 1979, is now the main fighting force of a Cambodian resistance coalition that uses bases on the border to launch attacks against the pro-Vietnamese regime.

Official-level negotiations will proceed to iron out the details of setting up new customs and immigrations regulations, and Phnom Penh troops will carry out mine-clearing operations around Poipet, Mr. Pramual said. He quoted Lieutenant General Nhim Vanda as saying the Phnom Penh Government, which has no diplomatic links with Bangkok, had already approved plans to restore bilateral trade with Thailand in the hope of increasing its exports.

The shady-but-brisk trade that has permeated the border for at least a decade brings Thai traders foreign cigarettes, gold, teak, rare animal pelts and other goods at cheap prices with occasional interruptions by fighting.

At several black market areas on the border, a carton of American cigarettes sells for 175 baht (seven dollars), as compared to 325 baht (13 dollars) in Bangkok.

Lt. Col. Nhim Vanda was quoted as saying the near future would see the variety and quantity of Cambodian exports rise sharply. The new trading posts are to be located some 300 meters (yards) apart from one another and built with bamboo and other light materials, Mr. Pramual said.

The post on the Thai side is to be built on government-owned land with a 300,000 baht (12,000 dollar) loan from the Prachinburi provincial administration. It will accommodate 2,100 vending stalls at a monthly rental of 100 to 200 baht (four to eight dollars) each to be collected by the provincial administration, he said.

Details of the Poipet post were not immediately known.

Textile Talks With U.S. Reach Accord on Apparel

BK2204030991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 91 pp 19, 28

[By Phonphimon Kanchanalak in Washington]

[Text] The ninth-round, three-day textile negotiations between Thailand and the US broke a long-standing impasse and reached an accord on apparels.

The issue of fabric was not discussed during the latest round of talks in Washington. It would be taken up in the next meeting which both sides agreed would be soon but had not yet been scheduled.

Both Thai and US officials participating in the talks, which were described as "businesslike", expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the negotiation. Representatives of the US and Thai apparel industries were consulted throughout the negotiation. Both were satisfied with the agreement, which would help restore market certainty and stability for Thai exporters and American importers of apparel.

The main reason for the breakthrough of the talks was the change in both Thai and US attitudes and approach going into the negotiation. Instead of focussing on the issue of overall/aggregate limits, which had been the bone of contention during the previous rounds of textiles and textile products bilateral talks, Ambassador Ron Sorini, chief US textile negotiator, shifted the focus of discussion to specified limits on a number of categories in Group 2 or apparels. He also was prepared to be flexible on some of these specified limits.

The Thai delegation head, Director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, Ministry of Commerce, Charae Chutaratkun, had received a full mandate from Minister Amaret Sila-on before flying to Washington to negotiate an agreement whch in effect gave him enough authority to be flexible.

The three-day talks were characterised as "camel-trading" with gives and takes coming from both Thai and American negotiators. The first two days of the discussions were marked by proposals and counter-proposals from both sides.

During the meetings, Thai and American officials had frank exchanges regarding what they could and could not give as well as what they could and could not take. In the end, both sides were able to agree on the limits and growth of all 30 of the 74 categories in Group 2 which needed to be specified.

One Thai official described Ambassador Sorini as "open-minded" while the Thai team was praised by some US observers as playing tough but straight relying on fact and figures and "did not call a bluff."

There was no memorandum of understanding signed in Washington on the just concluded agreement because the last day of negotiation did not adjourn until after 9 p.m. However, the US would send a note to the Ministry of Commerce recounting what the Thai and American negotatiators agreed on in Washington.

The accord on apparels was only one of the two parts of the Thai-US bilateral quota agreement on textiles and textile products. The other part which had to be negotiated was the fabric issue which would prove more problematic due to different circumstances and pressure from domestic industries from both sides.

While the objectives of Thai apparel exporters and American importers coincided, market stability and predictability, the objectives of American fabric producers and Thai fabric exporters, clashed. The American fabric producers generally did not want to see any growth in imports. They had powerful political clout because the industry employed a large number of people and senators would have textile workers and industry as their constituents.

The producers also were very organised, making contributions to politicians. These circumstances would make it much more difficult for the US negotiators to make any concessions.

The agreement on apparel was considered only partial and until the whole agreement on both textile and apparels was reached, the situation on existing "called" items or unilateral quotas under Article 3 of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement [MFA] would remain in effect.

However, with the accord on apparel in place, it was unlikely the US would issue new calls on more items as a gesture of goodwill. Once the agreement was reached under Article 4 of the MFA, Article 3 would no longer be necessary.

The latest Washington meeting was part of the effort on both sides to renew the Thai-US bilateral quota agreement which expired on December 1988. Since then, Thailand's trade in textiles and textile products with the US had continued with disruption but with no agreement to govern the transactions.

The US had put pressure on Thailand to renew the bilateral agreement. On January 1, 1989, the US asopted a new call mechanism for countries with expired agreements. The new mechanism which was in effect today, allowed the US to count "called" imports as of date of their entry into the US rather than the date of export.

The new method of charging Article 3 unilateral quotas had increased the uncertainty and anxiety among importers dealing with Thailand due to the uncertainty about how much of a particular product the US would allow to enter. Normally, the unilateral quota only affected products exported after the call for consultations.

Products exported before the call, but not yet imported, entered without restrictions. Under the new system, products exported before the call (either warehoused at a port or enroute) would count towards the interim quota.

The result was the increase of risks to import from Thailand since a product that had already been shipped or a large amount of warehoused goods could suddenly be subject to a restrictive quota. Both Thailand the US agreed that the next textile negotiation should take place soon.

The next meeting was likely to be in the US or Geneva because Ambassador Sorini, except for a brief visit to Geneva in May, could not leave Washington until after June 1.

Iraq Seeks Cash Purchase of Rice Despite Debts

BK1904021591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Apr 91 pp 17, 26

[Text] The Grain Board of Iraq, in a surprise move, has sought to buy 30,000 tons of high-grade rice from major Thai rice exporters.

An informed source in the Rice Exporters' Association told Business Post yesterday the Iraqi government early this week sent telexes to eight Thai exporters—who were still waiting for payment of 1,700 million baht from the Iraqi government for 1989 rice shipments—seeking to buy 30,000 tons of 100 percent white rice.

The source said the Grain Board of Iraq told major rice exporters that its government was ready to pay cash for the rice. He said eight rice exporters were surprised by the Iraqi request and called an urgent meeting to discuss the matter on Wednesday. The eight were Huay Chuan Rice, Soon Hua Seng, Capital Rice, Hong Yeah Seng, Seng Thong, Chaiyaphon Rice, Siam Rice, and Kit Phon.

The source said the exporters wanted assurance that the Iraqi government would pay some of its old debts, although its government could not immediately settle all the debts. They decided to ask the Baghdad government to pay part of its old debts before agreeing to a new deal. The Baghdad government so far had not replied.

Another source said it was likely the Iraqi authorities would switch to other rice exporters, or buy through international rice brokers. The source said Iraq had faced serious food shortages after the end of the Gulf War, and although some rice would be imported from neighbouring Jordan and Turkey, it still would not be enough to offset its huge domestic demand.

The source said Iraqi demand had caused the domestic rice price of high-grade rice to shore up after a month of inactivity. The prices of 100 percent white rice grade B yesterday jumped to 430 baht per picul, compared with 410 baht per picul early this week, the source said.

Value of Rice Exports Falls in First Quarter

BK2204023591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Apr 91 p 28

[Text] The value of rice exports fell during the first quarter despite a slight increase in shipments.

The Board of Trade rice committee said 1,017,014.41 tons worth 7333.64 million baht were shipped during the first quarter compared with 1,000,615.48 tons valued at 7,379.13 million baht last year.

March saw the shipment of 346,491.66 tons worth 2,590.56 million baht compared to 346,114.79 tons worth 2,600.35 million baht a year earlier.

The Soviet Union was the biggest buyer of Thai rice during the first three months, purchasing 175,700 tons. Next was Malaysia with 138,043 tons, Mozambique 88,010 tons, Hong Kong 70,081 tons and Singapore 52,024 tons.

Private shipments were down on last year, despite increased activity by the government sector. The fall in private shipments was reflected in the lower earnings value.

Labor Unions To Boycott May Day Celebrations

BK2204022591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Apr 91 pp A1, A2

[By Sorayut Suthasanachinda and Thawisak Sipan]

[Text] Labour unions representing probably the country's biggest industrial labour bloc have decided to join in the boycott of the annual May Day celebration because of "restrictions on workers' right to demonstrate on that day", a leader of the unions declared yesterday.

Suchin Phetrot, leader of a coalition of workers from four outlying industrial areas, said his group decided to support the boycott announced by the Labour Congress of Thailand (LCT) leader Thanong Po-an on Friday for the same reason. Suchin's group, representing about 50,000 workers from the Omnoi, Omyai, Rangsit and Phra Pradaeng industrial areas, is now considered the most powerful labour movement following the government's recent dismantling of state enterprise unions.

National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, apparently fearful of the growing dissent among workers and increasingly bold activities by politicians, said yesterday the present situation is not safe enough to lift martial law. Sunthon said he still could not give a specific date when martial law would be lifted. "The current situation is not safe, just read from the newspapers and you'll know what they're doing," he said withough elaboration.

The unions' decision to boycott the May Day celebration, scheduled for May 1, stemmed partly from the Labour Department's request for labour organizations participating in the event not to hold their customary march from the Royal Plaza to Sanam Luang and to cancel an annual all-night fun fair at Sanam Luang on the night of April 30, according to Thanong and Suchin. The government apparently fears the march could turn into an anti-government demonstration by unionists angered by the dissolution of state enterprise unions.

Suchin said the department's order, which he believed was passed on from a "higher authority", disregarded the customary practices of the annual celebration. The march and the fair were considered the main part of the activities for May Day. Moreover, he said, the "higher authority" had also prohibited the labour movement from displaying banners, delivering any political statements or speaking on stage to criticize the government.

Suchin said workers were affected by politics all year-round and that the May Day celebration was one of the only chances they get each year in which to express their opinions. The labour group leader said the department had specifically prohibited the labour movement from criticzing the military and the government for the passage of bills last week that outlawed state enterprise labour unions.

Suchin said state firm workers were considered a part of the labour movement and therefore they shoud be allowed to voice their opinions during the celebration. "We feel very uneasy (about the bans) so we have decided not to join in the celebration," Suchin said. "This will be a protest against the dictatorial regime and a statement to mourn state enterprise workers."

Suchin said his group would hold a press conference today to formally announce its decision not to join in the celebration, and it would later send circulars to its members explaining the decision. Suchin said his group would consider reversing its decision to boycott the celebration if the government was to lift martial law and rescind the ban on political gatherings.

Also yesterday a member of the LCT said that the traditional labour day march banned by the department was regarded as the principle reason for the celebration and that it had been organized for 10 consecutive years now.

In a related development, Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphackdi said the labour movement should refrain from holding any political activity on May Day. "May Day is a good day, and only 'proper' activities should be undertaken," Itsaraphong said. Asked whether the interior ministry would allow the workers to march from the Royal Plaza to Sanam Luang, he replied that it would not allow any activity that might cause trouble to the public. He would not say how the march would affect the public. The minister said he did not ask the ministry to prepare for any untoward incidents during the celebration because he did not think such events would occur.

Gen Sunthon, while saying he had not consulted with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun about lifting martial law, declared that the military would not tolerate any unrests created by any "small groups of people" in a way that would damage the national image. Asked if martial law would be lifted after the Labour Day, the general said, "I cannot confirm at the moment." However, he added that when martial law is lifted, there are still laws barring people from creating unrest. "In case there is an unrest, the military is ready in 24 hours to deal with the situation," said Sunthon.

Meanwhile, Deputy Defense Minister Gen Wimon Wongwanit said yesterday it was within the authority of the prime minister to lift martial law. "Premier Anan may have fixed the date when martial law will be lifted. In my opinion, the law should be lifted if there are no serious unrests," said Wimon.

Anan hinted on Saturday that he had already had a date in mind to lift martial law, imposed by the NPKC after it took power in the bloodless coup on February 23.

Vietnam

'No Preconditions' in Normalizing Ties With U.S.

BK2304112891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The U.S. delegation led by General John Vessey, special envoy of the U.S. President, has just concluded a two-day visit to Vietnam. Speaking on this visit, our editor in charge of international affairs said:

In two days, 19 and 20 April, General John Vessey, special envoy of the U.S. President visited Vietnam under an agreement reached by the governments of Vietnam and the United States. The aim of the visit was to discuss the MIA issue and other humanitarian issues of common concern.

This was the third time General John Vessey visited Vietnam. His first visit was August 1987. Each time he had visited Vietnam he had met and exchanged views with Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Each meeting, as pointed out by a spokeswoman of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, had positive results.

During the recent meeting, General John Vessey and Deputy Chairman Nguyen Co Thach discussed the MIA issue. General John Vessey highly appreciated Vietnam's cooperation in this effort. The two sides agreed to enhance the already-established mechanism for carrying out joint field investigations and for following up reports on sightings of live Americans. They also agreed that the United States will establish a POW/MIA office in Hanoi on a temporary basis. These agreements have attracted great public attention, as this will be the first U.S. presence in Hanoi since 1955.

In a broadcast on 20 April, BBC radio said this is an importanmt step in policies and a big leap on the long road. For its part, the British news agency REUTERS on 21 April quoted a high-ranking Western diplomat as saying that the plan for the establishment of the POW/MIA office in Hanoi is like a ray of sunshine in the cloudy sky. Indeed, there have appeared sun rays in U.S.-Vietnamese relations. However, many difficulties still exist on the road to the normalization of the relations between the two countries.

For its part, Vietnam has made an all-out effort to normalize its relations with the United States. On the MIA issue, we have actively cooperated with the United States to resolve this issue. Since the first meeting between Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and General John Vessey four years ago, the Vietnamese side has joined the United States in conducting 13 searches, investigating almost all the 119 cases which were given priority by the U.S. side, and has returned to the U.S. side 291 sets of remains.

However slowly progress has been achieved in the normalization of relations between the two countries, this responsibility does not rest with the Vietnamese side. In their meeting last weekend, Deputy Chairman Nguyen Co

Thach and General John Vessey reaffirmed their governments' desire to normalize relations and agreed on the importance of continuing discussion to resolve differences between them.

This sounds reasonable but the fact is that to achieve normalization of relations as wished by the two governments, no preconditions should be set for these issues.

Radio: Western Media Waging Anti-SRV Campaigns

BK2104033291 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Apr 91

["Talk of the Week" feature]

[Text] Mass media in some Western countries are waging campaigns against Vietnam. What are their goals and what have they done to achieve their aims? Following is our radio's analysis:

Recently, foreign radios including the BBC, RFI, and VOA, and several newspapers carried interviews and articles written by some Vietnamese, some of whom are living without, some are living within the country. These articles were described as open letters or petitions to the Vietnamese party and state. Public opinion in Vietnam held that this was a well prepared and ill-intentioned campaign which is being feverishly stepped up as the Seventh Congress of the Vietnamnese Communist Party is approaching.

Actually there is nothing new in their shop-worn allegations. The difference is that their aim is well covered. They seem to stand by the side of the party and the country but besmear and deny the cause followed and built by the party and the country for many years. One of them, who had been sent to France on a mission, stayed on and spoke over BBC Radio under the label of a citizen's petition calling for the return to the people's democratic regime instead of the present socialist construction. He also defined the overall strategic task to build and develop the country without mentioning the task of defending the country. Chiming in the tune, another person went to the length of calling for putting off the goal of building socialism to implement the platform of the bourgeois democratic revolution. They focused their verbal attacks on the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam which they called a disaster and estranged party leadership, and called on the party to return power to organs elected by the people and the state. They also urged for the establishment of a people's democratic front as a counterweight to the party.

It is obvious that their aims are to instigate suspicion and wavering, first to reduce people's confidence in the party and the policy of building socialism in Vietnam. Part of the Vietnamese community living abroad has not stopped at that. They have been stepping up anti-Vietnam activities. These include the establishment of reactionary organizations and the sending of hundreds of commandos trained abroad to Vietnam for sabotage activities. However, this sabotage campaign has not brought about expected results. The Vietnamese people are bound with the party and believe in the party, which has steered the boat of revolution from victory to victory, which initiated and has been carrying out the process of renovation over the past five years, achieving initial but important results.

Hanoi Welcomes Call for Cease-Fire in Cambodia

BK2304160391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Station commentary: "A Correct and Timely Initiative"]

[Text] According to a French Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a joint communique made public in Paris and Jakarta on 23 April, the two cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC]—namely Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas—and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, called on Cambodian parties concerned to accept a temporary cease-fire which is scheduled to come into effect on 1 May, and which should last at least until the end of the Jakarta meeting of the SNC—Supreme National Council of Cambodia. The communique says that this gesture of goodwill will create a favorable climate for the success of the meeting which the two cochairmen of the PICC wish to be held in Jakarta between now and the end of the spring with the participation of all SNC members. The communique also says that the SNC meeting may be held in mid-May this year.

Vietnam's attitude is to welcome this joint communique of the two cochairmen of the PICC and of the UN secretary general. We hold that this is a positive effort aimed at creating a favorable and trustful climate so the SNC meeting can be held in Jakarta with good results.

Obviously, the work of Cambodia should be decided by the Cambodian people themselves, and no individual, country, or international organization can do this on their behalf.

The SNC was founded in Jakata in September 1990. It is a legal and high organ of power symbolizing Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity during the transitional period. Over the past six months, the SNC met only once, in Bangkok—in December 1990—and it has not yet reached a unity of views over some necessary points.

Those State of Cambodia members of the SNC have on several occasions proposed a reconvening of the SNC meeting with their Democratic Kampuchea counterparts. They have also proposed that all Cambodian parties observe a voluntary cease-fire, and asked foreign countries to refrain from providing military aid to Cambodian parties concerned. Nevertheless, the Democratic Kampuchean side has sought to delay or evade this proposal. Far from this, Democratic Kampuchea, with the Khmer Rouge constituting the backbone, has intensified its military activities, thus committing untold crimes against the Cambodian people at the western border.

The Cambodian issue has existed too long and has created untold sufferings and losses to the Cambodian people, thus not beneficial to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Therefore, the world community wishes to settle the Cambodian issue as soon as possible and to, above all, avert a civil war in that country. The Soviet Union and the United

States have unanimously suspended their military aid to the Cambodian parties concerned since September 1989. Vietnam and Laos have also issued statements forbidding foreign countries from shipping arms to the Cambodian parties through their territories. So long as foreign military aid continues to be given to the Cambodian parties concerned, a civil war in that country will not be averted. Without a cease-fire in Cambodia, there will be no national reconciliation. Without the convening of the SNC meeting, there will be no way to settle differences.

The joint communique of the two cochairmen of the Paris international conference on Cambodia and of the UN secretary general is a positive and practical step toward creating a favorable climate for the success of the SNC meeting to be held in the period ahead. We are convinced that this goodwilled initiative will be welcomed and supported by the Cambodian people and other countries.

AFP Reports Further

BK2304145691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 23 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi, April 23 (AFP)—Vietnam welcomes a call by France, Indonesia and the secretary-general of the United Nations for a voluntary cease-fire in Cambodia, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The spokesman called a proposal by France, Indonesia and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar a "positive effort aimed at creating a favorable climate and confidence in the upcoming meeting of the Supreme National Council" (SNC) in Jakarta.

The SNC, which groups the Vietnam-supported government in Phnom Penh with members of the guerrilla resistance, is tentatively scheduled to meet in the Indonesian capital in mid-May.

But the spokesman added that a halt of foreign aid to the four warring factions was necessary "to create a favorable climate for a provisional cease-fire and help put an end to the civil war in Cambodia."

France and Indonesia, co-chairs of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), and Mr. Perez de Cuellar appealed to the factions Monday to observe a temporary cease-fire from May 1 at least until the end of the SNC meeting.

Vietnam, principal backer of the government in Phnom Penh, called in February for the two PICC chairs to take steps toward imposing a cease-fire and halting aid to the Cambodian factions. The meeting of the SNC, which includes six Phnom Penh representatives and two from each resistance faction, should allow them a chance to discuss their differences over a peace plan drafted by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council late last year. Phnom Penh has rejected certain aspects of the plan, notably the dismantling of its army.

(In Bangkok, spokesmen for the two non-communist resistance factions earlier Tuesday welcomed the call for a cease-fire but warned there could be no end to hostilities before Phnom Penh fully accepts the UN peace plan.

(No reaction was immediately available from the Khmer Rouge. But in a radio commentary monitored in the Thai capital, the Khmer Rouge renewed its call for "a continued struggle" to bring Hanoi around to accepting the UN plan.

("We fully accept this," said Ek Sereywath, a spokesman for a guerrilla group of followers of former Cambodian Monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk. "But the central problem is how to get Phnom Penh to accept the UN plan."

(Ieng Mouli, an official of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), the other non-communist guerrilla faction, also said his group "welcomed" the cease-fire call. "Such a move must lead to a comprehensive, not just a partial, settlement. It must be part of the UN plan," he added.)

The UN plan envisages a major role for the world body, which would supervise a permanent cease-fire, oversee the halting of foreign aid to the factions and administer the country until general elections can be held.

Phnom Penh wants guarantees to prevent a return to power by the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's former rulers and military mainstay of the guerrilla resistance. The radical Marxist group is blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its nearly four-year rule, which ended with the Vietnamese invasion of December 1978.

Protocol on Cultural Cooperation With Laos Signed

BK2004080491 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—A protocol on culture and information cooperation between Vietnam and Laos in 1991 was signed in Vientiane during a Vietnamese delegation's visit to Laos from April 11-18.

Signatories were Tran Hoan, Vietnam's minister of culture, information, sports and tourism, and his Lao counterpart, Son Khamvanvongsa.

NHAN DAN Marks Cuba's 'Giron Beach Victory'

BK1904071091 Hanoi VNA in English 0605 GMT 19 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—In the present world situation the spirit of Giron bears a still higher topical significance for Cuba and all those who cherish independence and socialism throughout the world, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today marking the 30th anniversary of the Giron beach victory.

The paper continues:

"Since the Giron event, the Cuban people have been persisting in their road of socialist construction. Though meeting with many difficulties caused by the enemy, natural calamities, and the inevitable mistakes and errors in the first steps of the revolution, the Cuban people under the leadership of the Communist Party have gained big achievements".

The paper notes that the new and complicated developments in the world have caused additional difficulties to the Cuban revolution, but the Cuban people continue to uphold the tradition of Moncada and Giron and an atmosphere of enthusiastic work and study in that spirit is sweeping the island country.

Meanwhile, the paper goes on, the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the Cuban people and other Latin American peoples continue to strengthen and expand beyond the calculations of the forces hostile to Cuba.

NHAN DAN concludes:

"The hostile forces may cause more difficulties to Cuba, but the Cuban people of this and succeeding generations will surely live up to their glorious traditions and continue to uphold the victorious banner of the nation".

Indian President To Visit in 'Near Future'

BK1704072891 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—President of the Republic of India R. Venkataraman will pay an official friendship visit to Vietnam in the near future at the invitation of President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Vo Chi Cong, says an announcement today of the Foreign Ministry.

Commentary Welcomes Visit

BK1904035891 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has announced that Indian President Venkataraman will pay an official friendly visit to Vietnam in the near future.

According to the communique released by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, the visit is made at the invitation of Vietnamese State Council President Vo Chi Cong. This is the first Vietnam visit by an Indian president in more than 30 years since the visit made by President Rajendra Prasad.

For many years now the Indo-Vietnamese relations have developed fine. These relations have not been affected by the fast changing world or by the situation in each country. On the contrary, as time goes by the Indo-Vietnamese relations have been further consolidated. Many a time India has affirmed its unswerving stand, that is, to continue consolidating the time honored friendship and comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam. India sees Vietnam as an important factor to peace and stability in the region.

Last year witnessed a series of activities of significance in the relations between the two countries. The Indian minister of external affairs visited Vietnam and a meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission was held then. In September last Indian Minister of Commerce Arun Nehru once again came to Vietnam for a visit. While here Minister Arun Nehru affirmed his government's desire to promote the special relations with Vietnam. On that occasion Vietnam and India signed a protocol on trade aimed at expanding bilateral economic ties. Particularly, India had offered Vietnamese guest workers in Iraq rice, milk, and sugar to help them overcome their difficulties. Another event worthy of note was that on the occasion of the centenary of the late President Ho Chi Minh's birth, the Indian Government established a national committee and carried out diversified activities to mark the anniversary.

Late last year Vice Chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers Gen Vo Nguyen Giap visited India at the invitation of the Indian Government. Gen Vo Nguyen Giap was there for a seminar on the late President Ho Chi Minh. At present India is actively implementing its agreements signed with Vietnam in the fields of credit and personnel training.

Regarding the Cambodian issue, the Indian Government has persistently supported the State of Cambodia and actively involved itself in the search for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian issue. India was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Cambodia right after it came into being. Up to now people still admire that Indian decision, regarding it as courageous and correct. What the Indian Government has done to Vietnam as well as to the Phnom Penh Government has further tightened the Indo-Vietnamese relations.

For us, we highly value and treasure the Vietnam-India relations and will do our best to consolidate and develop our relations with India. Certainly these relations will be factors contributing to the consolidation and development of the Vietnam-India relations following the visit to Vietnam by President Venkataraman.

Party Secretary Speaks at Lenin Birthday Meeting

BK2004081491 Hanoi VNA in English 0623 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 20—Vu Oanh, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, yesterday delivered a commemorative speech at the meeting held by the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute and the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association to mark the 121st birthday of V.I. Lenin (April 22).

Excerpts follow: "Marking Lenin's birthday, we remember Lenin's great services in turning socialism from an ideal into reality. At present, in the movement of criticism of the weaknesses in the building of socialism, there has appeared the tendency to negate all the achievements of socialism and its great contributions to the civilization of mankind. But there is no denying that in spite of its many weakneses and mistakes, socialism has done what the previous societies could not do. It has taken millions of working people from the status of hired labourers to that of masters of society. Within a few decades the most backward country in Europe which was then Russia became one of the most powerful industrial countries. A country of illiterate moujiks, as they were referred to in the West, became the first to put a man into space, opening the era of cosmonautics, an event of which we just commemorated the 30th anniversary, a society which after 20 years of building became strong enough to confront the spearhead of imperialism and defeated fascism to save the civilization of Europe and of the whole mankind from an incalculable catastrophe. That is an eloquent truth witnessed by the whole mankind in the 20th Century.

"For many years, socialist construction in many countries has obtained great achievements but also revealed many weaknesses and committed many mistakes. The biggest mistake lies in the fact that once having become the leader of the administrative power the Communist Party has not paid adequate attention to the lessons on building socialism already summed up by Lenin. Some have gone deeper and deeper into the realisation of a model of administrative and bureaucratic management and have been very slow to overcome weeknesses and mistakes and to seek a model suited to the demands of realities. The slowness in righting the mistakes accumulated over a long time has taken the socialist society to stagnation and crisis.

"The on-going crisis has happened not because Marxism-Leninism has become obsolete, actually because of its application as a dogma while Marx, Engels and Lenin always considered their theories as a compass for action. We cannot ask from Lenin what he could not and had no intention to do, namely to draw up a plan for the future society down to each detail regardless of all changes in social life and regardless of all characterities of nations and of each period of history. Lenin once wrote: 'What will socialism look like when it attains its most perfect form, we don't know and we cannot describe in advance... because we do not yet have the necessary grounds to define socialism. The bricks to be used in building socialism have not been finished'. But, does this mean that to avoid dogmatism, conservatism and stagnation we must give up Marxism-Leninism as counselled by a number of circles in the West?

"Reality has answered that question. Recent events in many parts of the world show that we cannot overcome crisis by giving up Marxism-Leninsm and by renouncing the leadership of the new-type Marxist party. Such a renunciation is by no means synonymous to revolutionary renovation, but is in fact only a confused retreat, the loss of bearings and even disintegration and eventually the return to the old society, a society which our party and people had waged so long a struggle and made so many sacrifices to abolish.

"The Vietnamese reality and the burning events all over the world have reinforced our belief that renewal, restructuration and reform can be successful only if the communists firmly grasp and correctly and creatively apply the revolutionary and scientific principles of Marxism-Leninsm to the revolutionary reality of their country. This is a principled issue. Letting down the Marxist-Leninist banner, the revolutionaries will immediately be pushed aside from the mainstream of life.

"The Vietnamese people, now as before, remain completely committed to the noble ideal of V.I. Lenin and Ho Chi Minh and will tirelessly strive to put it into practice. They will constantly consolidate and develop solidarity, friendship and close cooperation with the fraternal Soviet people for the success of renovation and restructuration in the two countries."

Vo Chi Cong Greets Military Medical Sector

BK1904135391 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 15 Apr 91

["Full text" of letter written by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, to cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel of the military medical sector on its 45th founding anniversary; date not given]

[Text] Dear comrades: On the 45th founding anniversary of the military medical sector, 16 April 1946-19 April 1991, on behalf of the party and state, I would like to extend my kind regards and warm greetings to all cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel of the military medical sector.

Over the past 45 years of combat support and fighting, imbued with President Ho Chi Minh's teaching that a competent physician must behave like a delicate mother, cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel of various generations have always stayed close to troops and the battlefields. With courage and devotion, they have undergone sacrifices and have endured hardships to wholeheartedly serve the Army and save the lives of wounded and ailing soldiers, thereby contributing positively to the victories of the Army and the cause of national liberation, unification, construction, and defense as well as to the fulfillment of our international duty.

The military medical sector has stepped up scientific and technical research work, studied and applied advanced medical experiences, and developed our people's traditional medicine in order to progress gradually and steadily. The sector has also trained a large contingent of professors, doctors, pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and medics, and outstandingly fulfilled all assignments. As a result, it has earned the affection and confidence of the Army and people. On this occasion, I would like to warmly commend the military medical sector for its achievements and illustrious exploits.

Dear comrades: To contribute worthily to building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland and to meet the needs arising from the tasks of augmenting and maintaining the Army's fighting strength in line with the party's spirit of renovation, you should satisfactorily recapitulate the realities in 45 years of ensuring military medical work. You should also step up the movement to practise esteemed Uncle Ho's teachings, refine your ethical and revolutionary quality, improve your professional standards, intensively conduct scientific research and apply advanced technology, and combine military medical work with public health service and modern medicine and pharmacy with our people's traditional medicine to serve the Army and people and to help develop the country's medical and all-people national defense systems. This is aimed at scoring achievements in honor of the Seventh National Party Congress.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations.

[Signed] Vo Chi Cong

Holding of First Round Party Congresses Continues

Air Defense Corps

BK2104123491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 31 Mar 91

[By Nguyen Huu Mao]

[Text] It was a very significant coincidence: The first round second party organization congress of the Air Defense Corps was held an the occasion when cadres and combatants of the entire corps were enthusiastically emulating achievements to mark the 38th anniversary of their heroic traditional day, 1 April 1953-91. Some 200 official delegates and 13 alternate delegates who were elected at the party organization congresses of divisions, agencies, schools, and subordinate units, brought their heartfelt feelings to the congress and voiced loyalty to the party and the socialist regime. They are soldiers who day and night defend the country's airspace.

The congress of the Air Defense Corps welcomed Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, party Central Committee member and vice defense minister, who was nominated by the party Central Committee's military commission to attend the congress and stand for election to the all-Army congress of party delegates.

In three and a half days of enthusiastic and busy work, the congress of party delegates of the Air Defense Corps proved to be a true intellectual center for all of the party organization members to make many profound and practical suggestions of both theoretical and realistic significance, and to clarify and supplement the draft documents to be presented at the Seventh National Party Congress.

Without indulging in trifling and outdated matters, the delegates focused on discussing and profoundly analyzing various issues, and reached a high degree of identical views on five major issues set out by the corps party committee. These are: To assess the achievements, victories, and causes of the Vietnamese revolution and the lessons learned therefrom; the basic epochal investment and the fundamental contradictions of our country in the initial stage of the transitional period; the viewpoints, objectives, policies, and measures of socioeconomic stabilization and development; national defense and security and social welfare; and the party development and amendments to party statutes.

From delegates who are general officers with more than 40 years of party membership to party members who are young officers commanding primary units, all unanimously asserted the necessity of having a platform, and held that this was a matter of life and death for the Vietnamese revolution in the current stage.

The platform of socialist construction in the transitional period asserts that following the path chosen by our party and Uncle Ho is in keeping with the law and aspirations and sentiments of our people. It is the banner to rally and unite all party members and the people. It relects the maturity of political leadership and revolutioanry will of our party. This is an issue we cannot dodge and over which we cannot oscillate, despite the situation in the world undergoing complex changes.

Many delegates unanimously agreed with the draft platform, asserting the great victories of the Vietnamese revolution. At the same time, some suggested that the victories be supplemented and assessed as follows: Faced with the overall crisis in various socialist countries, our party remains always steady and persistent, refuses to accept pluralism and multipartyism, and firmly maintains its leadership over the Vietnamese revolution.

Other delegates suggested that we evaluate only the victories of the Vietnamese revolution over the past 60 or more years as the great ones, because since the entire country began building socialism, the party has committed a mistake in strategic leadership and specific shortcomings in major domains. Many of the objectives of the fourth, fifth, and sixth congresses have not been achieved. Also, in assessing the vast extent of our party's mistakes in the socialist revolution, most delegates held that although the assessment in the draft platform is adequate, proper, and scrupulous, it is necessary to add a paragraph mentioning the responsibility of the party Central Committee and Political Bureau for having committed mistakes in strategic leadership on a large scale. Such an evaluation will be all the more persuasive.

One of the issues which was discussed very thoroughly and earnestly by the delegates was the question of defining the scope of our times. Although arguments and analyses differed, nearly all delegates manifested unanimous agreement on the fundamental scope of the era which is specified in the draft platform, since it is a historic reality that has taken and is taking place in the world in keeping with the evolutionary law of human society, while it is the ideal objective of our party and nation. Even though socialism is facing a more serious crisis now more than ever before, it is not a reason for changing the scope of the era.

Just like other congresses of primary installations and the next higher ones, this congress of the Air Defense Corps also devoted a considerable amount of time to discussing national defense and security. Being loyal children of the country and the people, the stalwart combatants who formerly led the national liberation are now taking the lead in the present national defense. The delegates made many suggestions on this issue, such as evaluating the situation of national defense and the Army in the past few years; and the necessity of pointing out responsibilities, shortcomings, and deficiencies not only of the party Central Committee's military commission, the National Defense Ministry, and the party committees of various units, but also the responsibility of the entire party, the state machinery, all sectors, echelons, and localities for having failed to take care of the all-people national defense and the People's Armed Forces.

Many delegates suggested that a separate chapter be created for the question of national defense and security and that the guidelines, objectives, policies, scale, and quality of building the armed forces in general and the Army in particular in the initial stage of the transitional period, and particularly in the next few years—namely the building of a regular revolutionary army of the people which is modernized step by step to attain high quality—be rationally large in size and sufficiently capable of defending the country under all circumstances. At the same time, they proposed that the platform and the political report should specify that the state have policies of preferential treatment toward the Army and its rear which is commensurate with the hard and heavy labor of troops, and must organize well their implementation so that cadres and combatants have no worries in performing their national defense tasks.

With a high sense of responsibility to the party, the party organization congress of the Air Defense Corps made many practical suggestions to party development, amending the party statutes in the hope that our party remains truly a revolutionary vanguard unit and advances firmly and constantly toward maturity to shoulder victoriously the heavy responsibility assigned it by the nation and history, and which is to lead successfully the building of a prosperous and powerful socialist Vietnam fatherland.

Tay Nguyen Military Corps

BK2004112791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 14 Apr 91

[By station correspondent Le Hai Trieu]

[Summary] From 26 to 29 March, the party committee of Tay Nguyen Military Corps held a first round party congress.

The congress showed high responsibility, deep thoughts, and constructive, honest, and democratic points of view in analyzing the main and important points of the party documents.

"Most of the opinions expressed agreed unanimously that in the current complicated international situation, the party has outlined quickly the correct platform with a principal system of points of view on socialist construction in the transitional period. The platform will be the political and ideological basis for the party, the people, and the armed forces."

The congress confirmed that our party has every condition and capacity to construct a platform and socioeconomic strategy for the nation. The representatives agreed unanimously on the structure and contents of the five documents and also said that in every document the current issues and political, economic, and social issues cannot be included in full detail.

The opinions expressed at the congress were full of profound analysis for clarifying matters, and concentrated mainly on the following issues:

"About the evaluation of the victory and the existence of the revolution, the opinions expressed confirmed that the general direction outlined by the party is correct. Some people were of the opinion that in outlining the general direction at the Fourth Party Congress, the party committed some mistakes due to the lack of a complete realization of our country's transitional period. That led to subjectivism and impatience in making the revolution on production relations a priority, as well as in considering industrialization the central duty, while the transitional period was not defined, resulting in the social capacity in production being limited, the productive forces not being developed, and industrial investment being too high in quantity and too low in productivity. Consequently, the country has been in a socioeconomic crisis."

On the targets of socioeconomic construction, the representatives all agreed with the document, but they also suggested that the real targets to the year 2000 be reconsidered. Some targets have been set too high for the country's capacity.

The congress paid special attention to the human strategy in view of the degradation of the education system, the high numbers of students leaving school early, the high education fees, and the difficult life of teachers. The congress suggested that the party form appropriate policies in the education and training fields because they are important elements in producing skilled people in the country.

The congress suggested that the party and state take measures to help the mountain provinces, especially the central highland ethnic minorities. They need to overcome the present poor and backward situation in isolated areas which contributed a great deal to the revolution conditions for the two struggles against the French and the Americans.

"National defense and foreign policy were issues to which much attention was given and on which many opinions were submitted by the congress. The congress analyzed deeply the current characteristics and the world situation, stressed Regulation No. 6 on our two revolutionary duties, and pointed out enemies and objects of military forces. On that basis, the congress defined the duties and contents of construction of the people's national defense; the building of the People's Armed Forces; the policies for the national defense, armed forces, and armed forces' families; and the responsibilities of the party, people, and responsible organs and echelons to the armed forces. The congress suggested the party rewrite the part on national defense duties."

On the policy toward the armed forces and armed forces' families, people expressed the opinion that the party, state, and people consider labor in the armed forces a special labor. Therefore, it must be treated in a special way.

"About party construction, the congress confirmed that our party has a stable capacity, revolutionary determination, and spirit of independence, dynamism, and unity towards the people and the world. The leadership of the party is a decisive factor of every achievement of the

Vietnamese revolution, but in the stage of socialist revolution, especially after 1975, the party has made some mistakes and shown some weaknesses in strategic and practical direction. Some party members at all levels have been too bureaucratic, standing apart from the people and looking down on the people's opinions. Some of these members have even exploited loopholes of the management system to embezzle the state and people's assets to enrich themselves.

"The party building work has not been considered important and has not been corrected. Many party organizations in villages, subwards, and production units are weak, causing people to lose confidence in the party. There have never been so many party members, and the people's confidence in the party has never been so low as at present. Has the party ignored party members' standards? Also, the party has not had strict standards by which to correct the party.

"The congress suggested that the party Central Committee and the Political Bureau establish decisive measures to adjust the party, build a party equal to the requirements of the renovation, and gain back the confidence and love of the public for the party.

"Dealing with the leadership of the party over the military forces, many opinions suggested that the party Central Committee continue to keep the principal of leadership of the party over the military forces as agreed upon at the Sixth Party Congress. That is the direction necessary for unity in every field and for restoring political officers in the armed forces to further enhancing party leadership over the military forces."

Hai Hung Province

BK1904124391 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] From 28 to 30 March, the party organization of Hai Hung Province held the first round sixth congress. More than 400 delegates representing 130,000 party members of 18 basic party organizations in the province attended. This is the first party organization to have completed the primary level party congresses and the first to hold the provincial congress.

Attending the congress were Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, Political Bureau member and party Central Committee secretary, and representatives of party Central Committee departments. Comrades Vu Oanh, party Central Committee secretary, and Tran Van Phac and Vu Tuyen Hoang, party Central Committee members, were nominated by the party Central Committee to attend the congress and to stand for election to the Seventh National Party Congress.

On behalf of the provincial party organization committee, Comrade Le Duc Binh, party Central Committee member and Provincial Party Committee secretary, delivered the opening speech and read a report. The report specified that: Party bases at all levels in the province recently conducted several drives to contribute views to the various draft documents of the party's seventh congress. Some 49,000 suggestions were made by party members while 33,000 others were made by people from the provinces. This was done in the spirit of democracy, openness, solidarity, and construction. Many ideas combined theory with reality to reflect thoroughness and responsibility in contributing intellectually to the formulation of party documents.

All party members and the people in the province asserted that our people would unswervingly follow the socialist revolutionary path. This is the immediate and distant objective of our party and nation. All ideas centered around and were in congruence with the party Central Committee's view that it was necessary to formulate a platform for socialist construction, both in the transition and in the socioeconomic stabilization and development strategy, until the year 2,000.

Delegates then made 50 statements focusing on the major issues and evaluating the current revolutionary situation in the country and the world; the transition to socialism; the objectives and views of socioeconomic development, national construction, defense, and security; foreign policy, the building of a political system, and party development in the new situation; and tasks of the revolution. Many delegates analyzed the advantages and difficulties of implementing socioeconomic objectives in the next five years—especially the difficulties in 1991-92—in order to gradually extricate our country from the socioeconomic crisis, strengthen political stability, repel negativism and inflation, and create more jobs for workers.

The delegates also suggested that the party and state rapidly apply and develop the multisectorial commodiy economy and mobilize it under the market mechanism managed by the state. They also suggested that the party and state promptly renovate and correct the management mechanism, policies, and laws, and intensify inspection and supervision to ensure the dynamic and healthy development of our economy.

Referring to the realities in localities, many delegates pointed out positive measures to purify party members and intensify the party militancy in the current revolutionary situation; measures to eliminate difficulties to build and develop integrated economic models; and other positive measures to manage, use, and develop land in rural areas.

To carry out party development well in 1991 and the following years, the Chi Linh District party organization conducted advanced training to raise the theoretical knowledge of cadres and party members, and continued to exert control on party members to comply with party statutes and reorganize them. Recent congresses revealed that party organizations which did this well had good results from their first round party congresses. In 1991, cadres and party members have been continually motivated to develop their exemplary vanguard role in scrupulously implementing the resolutions, guidelines, and policies of the party, and particularly, in developing the economy, including the family economy.

The building of a model economy in the present situation is a very difficult task. Nevertheless, what should be done first is to concentrate on developing and stabilizing the state-run and collectivized economies. This has been done before, but difficulties have recently emerged. Evidently, the people need help in the form of capital and supplies. The organization should also be improved.

As family and private economies can be easily developed and harmonized with the market, it is urgent to encourage all family members to become involved in this. In this connection, we should organize vocational training for youths. There are now more than 3,000 unemployed youths in the provincial capital. They should be trained and given jobs and opportunities to develop the economy. They should also be taught law abidence. Only in so doing can our economy develop in the right direction and meet market and state demands.

Since agriculture continues to be an important part of the economy, there are many things we should do to stabilize and develop its production. The most important issue concerns ricefields and land. We should foster every peasant household and help them feel secure about their ricefields and land. This will give them the feeling that they are the real owners of the land on which they work. To achieve this we must do the following:

1. In the draft political report and platform, we should affirm to continually promote initiative among peasant households. We must give them the right to use ricefields and land for an extended period. In districts, many suggested this period be around 15 to 20 years. In this way, peasants will become attached to their ricefields and be active in production.

2. Of importance also is our control of the size of cooperatives.

At this provincial level party organization congress, delegates made many practical suggestions to the draft document on party development and statutes. They focussed on the issues of the role of party leadership in the political system, and the renovation and reorganization of party tasks.

Addressing the congress, Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh highly appraised the contributions of the party organization of Hai Hung Province to the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress. He said that the congress has shown solidarity and singlemindedness and has promoted democratic centralization of party members. He added that the provincial party organization should continue to be well-prepared for the coming second round provincial party congresses.

With conscientiousness, urgency, and frankness, the first round sixth party congress of Hai Hung Province has petitioned and contributed many views to the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress.

A 36-member delegation of the provincial party organization was elected to attend the upcoming Seventh National Party Congress.

Hung Ha District

BK1804123191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 91

[By station correspondents Thu Huyen and Thanh Thuy]

[Text] Hung Ha, a district of Thai Binh Province specializing in rice, subsidiary food crops, and industrial plant cultivation, recently held the first round of its 10th party organization congress. A total of 200 delegates from 69 grass-roots party organizations and chapters representing 10,400 party members in the entire district attended. The congress took place amid an enthusiastic atmosphere resulting from three years of bumper crops in succession in the district with an average yield of more than 10 tonnes of paddy per hectare. The local people's living standards have been gradually improved with an average per capita food distribution of more than 600 kg.

Like many other districts throughout the country, before holding its district party organization congress, Hung Ha had conducted fairly seriously political drives among the people and party cadres and members under the slogan "democracy, intelligence, and renovation." The congress contributed more than 10,000 suggestions to the various draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress. At the same time, the district mobilized peasants to complete growing more than 10,000 hectares of 5th-month spring rice within the best crop planting period. Also, through the political drives to renovate the party and purify its ranks, Hung Ha expelled more than 600 deviant and degenerate members from the party, an action supported and welcomed by public opinion.

During the lively exchanges of views and debates at the congress, 100 percent of the speakers expressed unanimity with the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress, and categorically rejected pluralism and multipartyism. They affirmed that the Communist Party of Vietnam is the only party to lead the Vietnamese revolution along the socialist path and, at the same time, to resolutely elevate the current successful renovation process to a higher, more comprehensive level.

Not only at the district party congress but also in the grass-roots units, party members as well as the people of Hung Ha deeply appreciate the meritorious services of the party. It is remembered how destitute and impoverished Thai Binh as a whole, and Hung Ha in particular, used to be under French rule; they were once known nationwide as rice gruel factories. Today, with the same people and the same land, how did the localities manage to produce 5 or even 10 tonnes of paddy per hectare and to obtain an average paddy distribution of 600 kg per capita?

In addition to their discussions on rice, subsidiary food crops, and industrial plant production, delegates concentrated their fairly lively debate on agriculture, the peasantry, and the countryside and on the relationships between these issues. These were questions that had not been clearly mentioned in the socioeconomic strategy and political report of the Seventh Party Congress. The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth National Party Congresses had considered agriculture the fundamental issue and primary front; however, in the present political report it was not accorded status commensurate with its importance. Despite its very important role and position, agriculture was not sufficiently emphasized and adequately dealt with in the political report as a sector capable of providing food for all society, turning out large volumes of commercial agricultural products including exports, fostering initial accumulation of capital, and creating the best and largest number of jobs for laboring people.

Several questions arose: With its existing land and manpower, if more investment is made in science and technology, can Hung Ha produce higher rice yields and larger amounts of agricultural products? Can it turn out more marketable commodities? Should it export raw materials, or should it export processed products to create more jobs for rural youths and to obtain more foreign currency? What is the most suitable model for Hung Ha in building its new socialist countryside? As the country is composed mostly of rural areas, how will our party go about caring for the cultural and spiritual life of the peasantry and building the material and technical bases for the countryside? What should be done to persuade young people to stay in the rural areas with confidence to build socialism, and to convince high school and college graduates to gladly settle down and work in the countryside instead of trying by all means to migrate to the cities or the capital? How should handicraft and small industry be developed in the countryside to provide employment for demobilized soldiers? These were the issues raised in an open and responsible manner not only by the delegates attending the congress, but also by the people of all strata in Hung Ha in order to help the party resolve them.

At the congress, Comrade Vu Huy Mich, delegate from the party organization of Chi Hoa village, said:

[Begin recording] Concerning the portion of the draft political report dealing with the tasks of socioeconomic development in the present period of transition, there have been questions of whether agriculture should still be defined as the primary front. However, agricultural targets call for an output of 30 million tonnes of grain by the year 2000. Our Chi Hoa village delegation totally agrees with the assessment that, in recent years, on the agricultural front there has been fresh progress in the production of grain, foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export commodities. The peasants' living standards, as the draft political report has pointed out, have been markedly improved. However, there are still some views that these successes are only initial ones in the renovation process and are not really steady, and that the agricultural sector must continue to overcome the difficulties regarding capital, materials, science and technology, and complex development of natural calamities. In the current situation, we should continue to make investments for agriculture to help it surmount these difficulties and quickly increase the volume of products including grain, foodstuffs, and raw materials; create an initial accumulation of capital; and act as a market for industrial products. This is also aimed at enabling agriculture to fulfill its role as a base of industry and its function of creating the essential premises for the promotion of industrial development. [end recording]

Dealing with the question of building the new countryside, Comrade Bui Manh Tiep, delegate from the bloc of agricultural organs, said:

[Begin recording] The question of rural areas needs further clarification. For several years now we have discussed the issue of building the new countryside. However, no concrete plans have been formulated. There have been some views that the main thing is to create more jobs first, that an abundance of jobs is all that is needed, and so forth. But other views contend that this is not enough, that there must be a new cultured lifestyle, democracy and equality for all, no more food shortages and poverty, good neighborliness, and constant development of production. Thus, the three issues that need to be discussed are: First, production must be ceaselesly developed; second, infrastructure must be built; and third, social consciousness and a new breed of people must be fostered in the rural areas. In the countryside we must specifically determine what should be done and in what order; each sector and level must have concrete positions and policies. In particular, once we have accepted the existence of different economic sectors, the law of value, and the market economy, we must accept the differences in the living standards of the people in the countryside. This problem exists in any stage of development. But this does not mean we hasten in every way possible to surpass each other and care solely for our personal interests. On the contrary, we must devise appropriate mechanisms and policies to support each other in achieving development. [end recording]

Concerning the right to own and use production materials, especially land, most delegates thought that land should be allocated to private individuals for only a limited period. However, some delegates contended that permanent land ownership must be permitted. The question of a multisector commodity economy was also discussed by delegates. The majority of views agreed with the position that the state-run economy must play the leading role and control other economic sectors. For this reason, we must consolidate and develop the state-run economy, especially its key branches such as engineering, construction materials, oil, and gas.

The question of division of managerial responsibilities, especially at the district level, is not dealt with in the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress, but many such suggestions were offered by the delegates attending the congresses of Hung Ha District's grass-roots party organizations.

Over the past few years, in the renovation process and in working to abolish the bureaucratic, administrative, subsidy-based mechanism of management, many districts have made an effort, together with the province and the central level, to overcome difficulties and effect socioeconomic changes. Many delegates proposed that, in the long run, we should redefine the role of the district level to make it appropriate. At present, in view of the difficulties, all levels and sectors are requested to uphold their active role, strive to advance on their own, and refrain from waiting for and relying on assistance from the upper level. Hung Ha District suggested that there must be a division of managerial responsibilities to create favorable conditions for the implementation of all positions and policies. Many delegates held that it would be a mistake to hastily abolish or belittle the role of the district level.

The congress of Hung Ha District's party organization successfully elected 35 delegates in a single vote to attend the upper-level party organization congress. From now until the congress of Thai Binh Province's party organization and the Seventh National Party Congress, what should the party organization and the people of Hung Ha do? To answer this question, Comrade Nguyen Van Hap, secretary of the district party committee, presented the following program of action of Hung Ha:

[Begin recording] We will wait for the resolution of the Central Committee before launching our program of action for the future. As soon as the resolution is disseminated, we will act at once. In the immediate future we will concentrate on doing the following: First, we must redouble our effort to ensure the success of the spring rice crop—that is, to obtain more than 60 quintals of paddy per hectare, and to have 10 tonnes of paddy to keep in reserve. Second, as a section of cadres and civil servants is facing difficulties during the current pre-harvest lean period, we must do everything we can to ensure their livelihood and prevent the people from suffering from a food shortage in a district that has obtained bumper crops. Third, concerning the division of labor and solving the unemployment problem, we will strive to develop agriculture as a solution to this problem. However, at the same time, we must send out people to build new economic zones. Fourth, we must prepare for the second-round party congress by consolidating and improving the quality of the grass roots, and strengthening and rearranging the contingent of cadres. We will do this by reducing our staff in all fields in accordance with the plans of the central level. [end recording]

Some of the tasks laid down in the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress were and are being carried out by the party organization and people of Hung Ha. Some tasks are about to be tackled and others remain a novel experience for the local party organization and people. But following their discussions, everyone is now convinced that the resolutions of the upcoming Seventh Party Congress will be translated into reality.

VNA Reports Foreign Aid Received in FY 1989-90

BK2004072891 Hanoi VNA in English 0611 GMT 20 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—Vietnam received 160 million US dollars as foreign aid in its 1989-1990 fiscal year, of which 60 million from various governments, 80 million from the United Nations agencies, and 10 million from humanitarian and non-governmental organizations.

Some European Economic Community countries have recently agreed to extend aid and low-interest loans to Vietnam. They included Sweden with 360 million kronor, France with 45 million francs, Italy with 136 million US dollars and Germany with seven million Deutsche marks. The EEC also provided Vietnam with 13 million US dollars to carry out a programme to repatriate and reintegrate the "boat people" who voluntarily returned home.

UNDP [UN Development Program], WFP [World Food Program], UNFPA [UN Fund for Population Activities], WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], UNIDO [United Nationalist Democratic Organization] and other UN agencies continued to help Vietnam carry out many projects on technological transfer, food and nutrition programmes for mothers and children, safe water for rural areas, immunizations, population and family planning, etc.

About 100 humanitarian and non-governmental organizations had contacts and provided aid to Vietnam.

Winter-Spring Rice Harvest in South Increases

BK2204094291 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] By April 15, 1991, peasants in the southern provinces had harvested winter-spring rice on 866,990 hectares, more than 82 percent of the cropped acreage.

According to an estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the winter-spring crop in southern Vietnam can yield 3.9 million tonnes of paddy, 300,000 tonnes more than the previous winter-spring crop.

Besides, local peasants have also planted spring-summer and summer-autumn rice on 184,800 hectares, representing 16.3 percent of the plan.

Fiji

President Departs for Official Visit to China

BK2204071891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Suva, April 22 (AFP)—Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau has left here for a week's visit to China in a move to bolster economic and trade ties between the two countries.

The official visit comes less than a year after he attended the inauguration of President Lee Teng-Hui of Taiwan and highlights Fiji's friendly relations with both the rivals for sovereignty over China.

Ratu Penaia's presidential delegation is expected to muster more technical and economic assistance from Beijing, which in the past has underscored China's growing ties with Suva.

Since forging diplomatic relations on November 5, 1975, Fiji has taken numerous grants from Beijing.

"Fiji's relations with China is based on friendship, understanding and mutual respect," said Ratu Manasa Seniloli, permanent secretary to the president.

China has given nearly two million Fijian dollars (1.4 million u.S.) in grants to Fiji and up to 18 million Fijian dollars (12.6 million U.S.) in soft loans for projects ranging from rural electrification, building an international conference centre and a technical training school to financing cultural exchanges.

Though China established relations with several Pacific island nations in the last two decades, it only began courting for more concrete regional ties in the last five years in the wake of Taiwan strengthening its presence here.

The 15-nation South Pacific Forum is investigating the possibility of including Taiwan as a dialogue partner, along with China and other countries, at the forum's post-conference meeting every year.

China has objected and hopes to influence Fiji and Papua New Guinea, two of the bigger island forum members, to push for a strong one-China policy at the next forum meeting in July.

During this week's visit, Ratu Penaia will meet his counterpart Yang Shangkun, who visited here last May 31, and Premier Li Peng. Apart from Beijing he is also expected to visit Shanghai.

New Caledonia

Pro-, Anti-Independence Parties To Meet 27 Apr

BK2204141691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 22 Apr 91

[Text] Noumea, April 22 (AFP)—New Caledonia is bracing itself for intense political activity as its movements for and against independence from France prepare for weekend party congresses.

The pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) and the anti-independence Rally for Caledonia in the Republic (RPCR) are to meet here beginning Saturday. Both parties have set themselves wide-ranging agendas and both are to hold leadership votes.

RPCR leader Jacques Lafleur, a deputy in the French National Assembly, is tipped for easy re-election at the party's first congress since July 1988.

Party officials and activists have also set themselves the task of considering the RPCR's role in New Caledonia's political evolution and are to discuss developments since the signing of the Matignon accords. The accords, which stipulate key reforms and a self-determination referendum in 1998, were signed following pro-independence agitation among elements of the indigenous Melanesian population.

Elections held under the accords in June 1989 gave RPCR control of the populous south, while the FLNKS coalition controls the less developed north and loyalty islands.

Work sessions will discuss current issues including housing, taxation, rural development and land ownership, economic development and youth concerns.

Meanwhile, FLNKS will be meeting in the central town of Koinde with an agenda calling for a review of the party's work under Paul Neaoutyine, who succeeded Jean-Marie Tjibaou as party leader after Mr. Tjibaou's May 1989 assassination.

The agenda calls for a review of the party's record since the Matignon accords, focussing on the economy, land ownership, training and education, culture, social development, health and housing conditions. Participants will also plan for a 1992 political assessment stipulated in the Matignon accords.

The party is to consider its "Post-'92" policies and elect its president and politburo. So far, Mr. Neaoutyine is the only announced presidential candidate.

FLNKS members can expect to spend much of their weekend discussing the relation between politics and traditional Melanesian customs, and their impact on economic development, observers said. Splits between political officials and traditional chiefs over the role of traditional culture in the independence movement have become apparent in recent months.

Independence leaders have said the conflicts, especially on Lifou Island, threaten economic progress. But the traditional chiefs reply that the Matignon accords do not give enough recognition to Melanesian traditions.

The hereditary chiefs have demonstrated their still-considerable influence over local bodies in recent months by barring Lifou Island Mayor Cono Hamu, who leads a FLNKS faction, from several districts of the island.

This weekend's convention, FLNKS members hope, will see the party's various factions arrive at a compromise over the respective roles of politics and traditional culture in the independence movement.